Zamelodia
ludoviciana

sBr 97.41.9 (25)
v. 28

Habia ludoviciana.

1889

May Cg. 7^{1}* - Cg. 8^{1}* - Cg. 9^{1}* - 10^{1}♂ Cg. ♂-♀ Cs. - Cg. 11^{1}* - Cg. 13^{1}* - Wm. 14^{1}* - Cs. 16 ^{3}♂ ^{1}♀ - Cd. 17^{1}* - Cg. 18 ♂* - Cg. 20 ♂* - Cg. 23 ♂* - Cg. 25 ♂* Cg. 26 ♂* - Cg. 28 ♂* - B. 30 ^{1}♂* 1889.

June Cd. 1^{1}* - Cg. 2^{1}* - Cg. 3 ^{4}♂* - Cg. 5 ^{1}♂* - Cd. 7 ^{1}♂* - Way 16 ^{1}♂* - W. 20 ^{1}♂* - Cg. 21 ^{1}♂ Cd. 1♂* - Cg. 23 ^{1}♂* - Cg. 24 ♂* 1889. Way-Cd. 1^{10}* - Cg. 2^{1}* - Cg. 3^{1}* - Cg. 5^{1}* - Cg. 6^{1}* - Cg. 1* 8 B. 1* - S. 10^{2}* 1890

July Cs. 7 1st ♂ sun - 1889 Cg. 8 1♂* (daybreak) - 1890 Milton 10^{1}* 14♂ M. [illegible]

Aug Cg. 6^{1} m! - Cg. 9 ^{1}♀ - Cg. 12^{1} ⊛ - Cs. 28^{4} 1889

May B. 6^{1}* - Cg. 7^{1}* - Cg. 9^{1}* Cg. 10^{1}* - Cg. 11^{1}* . Cg. 12^{1}* - Cg. 1* 13 Cd. 1* - Cg. 14^{1}* . Cd. 15^{3}* - Wm. 16^{3}* . Cg. 1* 17 Cd. 1* . Wm. 3* Lin. 4* 19 Cg. 1* - C. 21^{1}* - Cg. 1* Cd. 1* 22 - Cg. 1* Cd. 1* 23 - Somerville 24^{1}* - Cg. 25^{1}* - Cg. 27^{1}* - B. 29^{1}* - Cd.-Way 30^{15}* - Way 31^{15}* 1890

Cg. 1♂* 8 Lex. 1♂* ([illegible]) - Cg. 10 ♂* - Cg. 14^{1}* - Cg. 15^{1}* - Cg. 16 (♂-♀)* - Cg. 19^{1}* - Cd. 22^{2}* - Cd.-Way 23 ^{5}♂ c * - Way-Cd. 24^{5}* - Cd. 25 ^{2}♂ * - Cg. 26^{1}* - C.-Conl. 28 ^{10}♂ * 1891.

3 ^{1}♂ - 9^{1}* - 10^{1}* - 11^{2}* - 12^{2}* - 13^{3}* - 14^{4}* - 15^{2} - 16^{2}* - 17^{2}* - 18^{2}* - 19 (♂-♀) (first ♀) - 20 ^{5}♂ ^{4}♀ * - 21^{4} * - 22^{2}* - 23^{2}* -

24^{4}* - 25^{4} - 28^{2}* - 29^{1}* - 30^{2}* - 31^{1}* - Concord. 1892.

10^{1}* . 11^{1}* - 12^{1}* - 13^{1}* - 14^{7}* - 15^{3}* - 16^{3}* - Coll. C. 17^{8}* - C. Lex. 18^{3}* - 19^{2}* - 20^{6}* - 21^{2}* - 22^{3}* - 23^{5}* - Cd. to Cg. [24^{6}*] C. to Cd. 25^{6}* - 26^{4}* - 27^{5}* - 28^{3}* (nest 4 eggs) 29^{3}* - 30^{3}* Concord. 1893.

June Cg. 11^{1}* - Cg. 12^{1}* - Cg. 13^{1}* - Cg. 16^{1}* . Cg. 20^{1}* . Cg. 21^{1}* - Cg. 22^{1}* 1890

1^{2}* - 2^{2}* - 4^{2}* - 5^{2}* - 6^{1}* - 7^{3}* - 8^{2}* - 12^{1}* - 15^{3}* - 16^{1}* - 17^{2}* - 18^{3}* - 19^{2}* - 20^{2}* - 21^{3}* - 22^{2}* - 23^{2}* - Concord 1892.

July 1^{1}* - 2^{1}* - 4^{1} - 5^{1} ⊛ 6^{1}* . 7^{1} ⊛ - 9^{1}* - 10^{1} ⊛ - 11^{1} ⊛ - 12^{1} ⊛ - 13^{1}* - 14^{4} ⊛ . 15^{4} - 16^{6} ⊛ - 18^{3} ⊛ - 19^{1}* - 20^{1}* - 23 hd. at night - 28^{1} - 29^{1} (click) 30^{1} (same) Concord. 1892.

3^{1}* - 4^{1}* - 5^{2}* - 6^{1}* . [Milton 10^{1}*] 13^{1} ⊛ - 14 ♀ with young - 16 - 17 - 18^{1} - 21^{1} ⊛ - 23 (♂ ad. Bulls H.) 27^{1} ⊛ once at sunset. 29^{1} (Bulls H.) 30^{2} juv - 31^{1} juv. Concord. 1893.

August 13^{3} 14^{2} hd (full note) 31^{1} juv Concord

4^{1} juv - 7^{2} juv - 10^{1} juv - 11^{2} juv - 16^{1} juv - 30 chick note heard. Concord 1893.

H. ludoviciana

Habia ludoviciana.

April
B.
30^{1}(Gilman) 1896

May.
E. Dux. Cg. E. Dux Concord E. Dux. Cg. Concord Cg. Cd. Cd. Cg. C.
4 (Paxton) 8^{1}* – 9$^{\hat{♂}}$* 10^{1}* 12^{2}* 13^{2}* 14^{2}* 15^{1}* 16^{1}* – 17^{1}* 19^{1}* 20$^{3-16}$* + 21^{2}* 22^{1}* 26^{2}* 27^{2}* 29^{1}* 30^{2}* 1894
Waverley. Cg. 5 P.M. Cg. 1* Concord Cg. Cg. Milton Hill Cg. Cg. Cg. Cd.
7^{1}* 8^{1}* 9^{13}3* 11^{2}* 12^{4}* 13^{1}* 14^{1}* ^{1}* – 15^{1}* 21^{1}* 22^{1}* 23^{2}* 1895
Longwood Cg Cg Longwood Cg. B.H. B.H. Concord B.H. Cg. 1898
2^{1}(Howe) 7^{1}* 8^{1}* 9^{1}* 10(♂♀) 1896 8$^{♂}$* (Gilbey) 9^{1}* 1897 10^{1}* 11^{1}* 12^{2}* 13 $^{3\hat{♂}♂}$(♂♀)* 14^{4}* 17^{1}* 18$^{6\hat{♂}}$* 4♀ 19$^{1♂}$♀ 20$^{\hat{♂}}$* ♀ building nest 21^{2}* 22^{4}* [23–29^{1}*] 29^{2}*
Ball's H. B.H. Concord Ball's Hill B.H. to Cd.
7^{1}* 8^{1}* 10^{1}* 11^{1}* 12^{2}* 13^{1}* | ♂ 1♀ (Gilbey) 14^{1}* 15^{1}* 16^{1}* 17$^{2♂}$* 1♀ 18^{2}* 19^{1}* 20 (♂♀)(♂♀) Building 21^{2}* 22^{4}* 23^{1}* 24^{1}* 25^{2}* 26^{2}* 27^{2}* 28^{2}* 29^{2}* 30^{1}* 31^{2}* nest 2 eggs more taken 1899

June
Cd.
7^{3}* 1894 1894
Cg. Cg. Cg. Cg. Cherry tree Cg. (Cherry tree) Cg. Cg. Cg.
9^{1}* 10^{1}* 11^{1}* 25^{1} (click note) 26 ♀ ad. 1 juv ♂ ad * (song twice rather feebly) 27♀ 28♀ 29♀ 1895
Cg. C (Elmwood)
18^{1}(*) 19♀ 1896
Milton Ball's H, Cd. Cg.
20^{1}* 22^{1}* 23^{1} (click note) 2 young on wing Hubbard Park. Louise Robinson) 1897
C (Elmwood) Cg. Cg. Cg. Cg.
1^{2}* 2^{2}* 5^{5}* 7^{2}* 9^{2}* 10^{2}* 11^{2}* 12^{2}* 13^{1}* [18^{1}*] 21^{1}* 22^{2}* 23^{2}* 24^{2}* 25^{1}* 29^{1}*. Concord 30^{1}* 1898 1^{1}* 29^{1}* in full song for 30 m. at evening 30 ♂♀ (*) & brood young 1899

July
Cg. Cg. W. Newton Cg. Cg.
2^{1}* 11^{1}* 13 ♀ ad 14 ♂ juv * – 16 ♂ juv * 1894 1894
Cg. Cg
7 ♂ ad 10 ♂ ad * (song 10 or 12 times in full voice) 1895 1895
Cg Cg
1 ♂ ad * with brood of young. 1898 3^{1}(*) 1899

August
Cambridge garden W. Cg
9 ad ♀ with several young 10 do. 11 1 juv. 23 click note heard – 2 1894
Cg.
21 click heard. 1895
Cg Cg. Cg Cg Mt. Auburn Cg.
26 squeal heard 27^{1}– 28^{1}– 29 1 juv 30^{2} 31^{③} 1897

H. ludoviciana

September

Zamelodia ludoviciana.

Concord, Mass.

1887. In the Estabrook woods Grosbeaks were singing on every

May 22. side. I give them the palm over all other birds of this locality, as I did last year. Such richness, such inexpressible tenderness as they throw into their notes. They have a mating song which I heard twice to-day, which surpasses the ordinary performance of which, however, it is merely an amplified version with tender trills and low liquid notes added.

Hydemeles ludoviciana

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 10 Cambridge. _ A Grosbeak which I cannot doubt is the same bird that for three or four years past has nested in or near my garden (last year in a pear tree) arrived May 7 and has been singing in the tops of the elms every morning since. In the maple swamp I heard another in full song this morning and about noon saw him, with his mate, bathing in a pool of water

Arrival of ♀

This evening at about sunset I saw the ♂ Grosbeak in our garden chasing the ♀ and singing on wing. His song was essentially the same as on ordinary occasions but included a few unusually low, tender notes. It was also more prolonged. Flight slow, level, wings flapping rather loosely & steadily.

Singing on wing

" 22 For about a week after his arrival our Grosbeak sang at short intervals from daylight until dark flooding the air with his rich music and attracting the attention of all my neighbors. In fact during this period he was by far the most conspicuous performer in the garden choir. During the past week, however, I have heard him only a few times each day, usually early in the morning and near sunset.

Decline of singing

" 23 This evening, at about sunset, my Grosbeak sang, almost without cessation, for ten or fifteen minutes in the top of one of our tallest elms. He seemed to be in a state of rapt ectacy and I have rarely if ever heard such delicious music from any bird of his or any other species. His song was almost continuous for minutes at a time. Its rich notes now rose ~~into~~ a perfect flood of melody now sank almost to a whisper ineffably tender and sweet. It included one passage which I have never heard before a low trilling warble the notes of which rolled over and over as it were. This passage was many times repeated.

Song

" 24 Eleven o'clock A. M. My Grosbeak has been in full song all the morning up to this hour. Weather clear & cool.

In full song again

& p 83

Hedymeles ludoviciana **Eastern Massachusetts.**

1889 Mass.

May 30 Belmont. - A ♂ in the "Cotton run" singing on wing as he descended into a birch copse flapping his wings slowly and rather loosely, sailing two or three yards just before alighting; the song as on ordinary occasions. Time 12 M. cool & cloudy.

Singing on wing.

June 2 Cambridge. - The Grosbeak in our garden has been in full song for the past week at all hours of the day. As I write this at 3 P.M. he is pouring out a flood of melody in a cherry tree just outside my window. The song ~~is~~ certainly most like a Robin's but how infinitely finer.

Song.

" 7 I have not heard our Grosbeak for two days. One was singing this evening, however, in the Fresh Pond swamps.

Nest in my garden.

" 9 Just I was beginning to fear that some calamity had befallen our Grosbeak I discovered its nest in a pear tree on my place about 30 yds. from the tree where the birds built last year. The ♀ was sitting at about 5 P.M. She craned her head over the edge of the nest to look at me as I passed beneath. The nest is about 15 ft. above the ground in a cluster of leaves near the end of an upright branch. It looks like an unusually small, slight structure but I did not examine it closely. Curiously enough the ♂ has not been heard for four days.

Silence of ♂

" 13 The ♀ sitting on the nest in our garden at 6 P.M. The ♂ has not sung, in my hearing, at least, for seven days.

" 14 The ♀ sitting at 11 A.M. ♂ not seen or heard for 8 days

" 15 " " " " 1.30 P.M. " " " " " 9 "

" 21 During the past week I have visited this nest several times daily. ♀ invariably ~~on~~ except once at noon when no bird was seen. This morning at 10 o'clock heard a Grosbeak sing a few notes in the pear orchard. Went to nest & found a ♂ sitting his bill wide open & panting for it was very hot. He sang again after I left. 20 minutes later I returned & the ♀ had taken his place. I have heard no Grosbeak sing on our place before this morning since the 5th

Hydemeles ludoviciana.

1889 Mass.

June 23 Cambridge. Climbed to the nest in my pear orchard and getting a little above it could see only one young bird still nearly naked and evidently only a few days old. Neither parent was at the nest but the ♂ (which reappeared on the scene on the 21st) was singing not far off. As nearly as I could ascertain last year this pair or rather ♀ raised only a single young bird in 1888. I waited near the nest nearly an hour to-day but neither of the old birds appeared.

Nest in my garden

" 24 Through the bottom of the nest I could see the young bird move but its parents did not appear to feed it while I was near the tree.

July 2 Denton climbed to the nest & ~~examined~~ found that it contained only a single egg, doubtless an infertile one. The young bird has perhaps become fledged and left while I have been away (nearly a week).

Aug. 28 Four birds, all in brown plumage, one with rosy throat and breast (specimen in collection). They seemed to be members of one family keeping near together in the trees occasionally uttering the click but oftener the curious fall-notes. The latter is about half-way between the call of the Bluebird and a single flute note of Icterus galbula. The rosy breasted bird was nearly through the moult.

Brood of young in Maple Swamp

Fall note

1890

May 7 Cambridge. ♂ heard singing & seen, also, in Hubbard Park by one of my neighbors. Is it my old bird?

" 9 " ♂ singing in my lindens this morning, a fine performer giving the tu-tu-tu ~~[illegible]~~ ending.

" 25 " My bird sings daily in or near my garden but I can find no nest & have seen no ♀. ~~Yesterday~~ He roams over a wide territory, from Fayerweather St. to Concord Av. at least.

Habia ludoviciana

1890 Mass.

May 24 Cambridge & Somerville.. A nest with 3 eggs found in a hawthorn tree on the Forster place (next C. F. Batchelder's). I also heard a ♂ singing in a densely populated part of Somerville. The nest just mentioned is built directly over the public sidewalk at a height of only 12 or 15 ft.

Nest & eggs

In Somerville

June 14 Swampscott. - Although this region abounds in birch and maple swamps and densely wooded runs & glens the Grosbeak is absolutely wanting according to Jeffries. I searched for it in vain, also, to-day.

Absence at Swampscott

" 22 Cambridge. My bird has sung daily to-date within hearing of my house but he has not nested in my garden this year. In one respect his habits seem to be peculiar viz. in that he usually sings from the highest positions attainable. His favorite perches in my neighborhood are the topmost dead branch of an elm and that of a rum cherry both nearly 100 ft. above the earth. On one of them he will sit motionless for minutes at a time pouring out his rich notes at frequent intervals.

Singing on topmost dead branch of tree at great height

1894

July 14 Cambridge. Grosbeaks have been comparatively scarce in Cambridge this season although unusually numerous in Arlington according to Faxon. None have bred on or very near our place. I saw a male in the garden May 9th & the same or other birds at intervals through the remainder of the month but none were seen or heard in the garden in June. July 11th an adult male gave the full song twice in our apple trees.

In Cambridge

At 8 o'clock this morning I heard a Grosbeak singing freely and almost continuously in the garden. (He sang at short frequent intervals ~~of~~ during the whole forenoon) The song, however, was not so varied and rich as in Spring but a simple, warbling tee-e-tura, tee-e tura, tee-e tura, tee-e-tura, tee-e. Nevertheless

I did not suspect that the singer was not an old bird until I looked him up and found him to be a youngster in autumn plumage with plain brown wings, tail, back & head & streaked breast & sides. There was no trace of rose or salmon on the jugulum or breast.

A young ♂ sings freely & continuously

Habia ludoviciana.

1895. Mass.

July 10 Cambridge. Grosbeaks have been rather less numerous in Cambridge this season than usual but still I have noted several pairs. There has been no nest on our place but a pair must have bred very near us for they have visited the garden nearly every day. For the past two weeks they have been feeding on cherries. The female for several days in succession came to the cherry trees every ten or fifteen minutes, taking off a single cherry in her bill each time doubtless to feed her young. I did not see her eat any of the cherries. The male spent the forenoon to-day in the garden. At about 1 P.M. he began singing sotto voce and presently in loud full tones, repeating the song ten or twelve times. I do not remember ever hearing the full song so late in the season before and he has not sung before this season since late in June. The weather to-day was clear & cool and all the garden birds were singing with unusual spirit & frequency.

♀ feeding young on cherries.

Late singing

1898

May 10 Concord. One in the Blakemore woods this morning. [Journ.]. First arrival.

July 2-4 Glendale (in or near), Berkshire Co. Common. [Journ.].

1905

July 22 Cambridge.— At this season the Grosbeak frequently utters a rapid succession of loud, explosive notes difficult to describe or render but not unlike those of a startled Robin. I have heard this outcry repeatedly of late in our garden. Whether it is made by the old or young bird, or by both, I have not been able to ascertain. I do not recall ever hearing it in Spring.

Notes

Massachusetts.

1892.

Habia ludoviciana. (No. 1)

May. 20. Concord. Grosbeaks were also unusually numerous. In one place there were three, two ♀ + one ♂, together. They were all in trees or bushes on the outskirts of the woods as indeed were most of the birds that I met.

June. 8. Found a Grosbeak's nest in a small oak in the hollow behind Ball's Hill.

June. 15 Visited the Grosbeak's nest found on the 13th. At 3 P.M. today and again at 5 P.M., the male bird was sitting. I did not disturb him. The nest, which is in the top of a small bushy oak, was empty on the 13th.

June. 18 Wilson's Thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks singing freely at day break and well into the forenoon. At 9.15 I visited the Grosbeak's nest behind the hill and found the female sitting. Hitherto I have always found the male but all my previous visits have been made after noon. ++ On reaching the Buttrick's landing we heard a short, low whistle repeated at regular intervals in some alders on Honeysuckle Island. It resembled the autumn call of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and proved to be made by one of these birds, a little bobtailed youngster just from the nest who presently flew across the river and dropped into the tall grass near us where he resumed his calling. ...

Massachusetts. Habia ludoviciana. (No. 2)

1892.

June 20 Concord. The female Grosbeak was sitting on her nest at 2. P.M. and the male singing near my cabin at 4. P.M. so it seems that they do not divide the day into "watches" as I had thought possible.

June 21 At 1.30 P.M. the *male* Grosbeak was on the nest in the young oak. At a little after 3 P.M. I heard him singing near the river and on visiting the nest again at 4 P.M. I found the *female* sitting.

June 22 Visited the Grosbeak's nest at 12.15 P.M. and again at 4. P.M. The *female* was sitting on both occasions

June 23 Visited the Grosbeak's nest at 9.45 A.M. and found the *female* sitting.

July 1 On approaching the Grosbeak's nest I see a fluffy, whitish object just visible above its edge. While I am looking at it the female parent suddenly appears and discovering me sets up a frantic outcry, uttering at first the usual *click* then changing this to a loud, explosive cry not unlike the *pip* of an excited Robin and at times giving these cries so rapidly and incessantly as to run them together into a sort of prolonged scream. I left the nest at once but the irate mother bird pursued me a long distance through the woods evidently calling down all manner of maledictions on my innocent head.

Massachusetts.

Habia ludoviciana (no. 3)

1892.

July 2. Concord. The Grosbeaks' nest was empty & deserted. I pulled it down and found a few tufts of grayish down clinging to the lining, probably the young have flown since yesterday but a tragedy is not of course impossible. I wish now that I had examined it before this. On the ground directly beneath it I found half of the shell of one of the eggs showing that the bird merely pitched it over the edge of the nest when the young hatched.

July 5 Several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were in the cherry tree by the house this afternoon and one, an old bird, sang a little in subdued tones. They were eating cherries.

July 10 A brood of Grosbeaks haunt our cherry tree now and are feeding on the fruit. Both parents are with them. The old male occasionally gives a snatch or two of his spring song especially in the early morning. The call of the young is *heiw*. One of the party and the old female, as I believe, although I did not determine this definitely - got into some trouble with a Robin this morning and made a great outcry beginning with a Robin-like *pip, pip, pip* and running this into a loud and rather shrill scream p-p-p-p-p-p-p. This is the call which the mother bird at Ball's Hill gave when she found me at her nest when the young were about to leave it. It is evidently given only under great excitement.

Massachusetts. Habia ludoviciana. (no. 4.)

1892.

July 12 *Concord*. In the early morning a brood of young Grosbeaks with their father spent nearly an hour in our elms. The old bird sang brief snatches of his song The young called *hŭo-e* *pìe-wēr* and *pìe-ĕr*. They sat for minutes at a time nearly motionless among the foliage & were hard to see.

July. 13. Young Grosbeaks still come to the elms in front of the house, usually two or three with an old male bird which they follow closely, teasing him for food. The call note of the young varies considerably. I noted one variation today as *têw-i*.

July 23. At 9. P. M. we heard the call note of a Grosbeak many times repeated. The bird seemed to be flying about at considerable height and the sound of its calling finally died away in the distance to the S. Was this bird starting on migration?

Habia ludoviciana.

Concord, Mass.
May, 28. 1893.

Walking around behind the hill I found a Grosbeak's nest within thirty yards of the cluster of oaks where a brood of young were reared last year. Doubtless the old birds are the same but they have chosen an unique situation for their nest this season — in a young white pine near the top, directly against the main stem but supported on ~~three~~ lateral twigs at a height of about 5 ft above the ground and only three or four feet below the top of the tree. The nest is very little concealed by the foliage of the pine which is not at all dense. The female bird was sitting on four eggs (at about 6 P. M.) which looked fresh.

Unusual! position for a Grosbeak's nest.

Concord, Mass.
May, 28 1893.
29

Visited the Grosbeak's nest at 10 a. m. The male bird sitting. At 6 P. M. yesterday the female was on. The male sings very near the nest & 200 yards distant in every direction.

Grosbeak's nest.

Zamelodia ludoviciana.

Concord, Mass.

1893. Broods of young Grosbeaks also visit the elms and orchard daily. The young have a call which closely resembles the sad, autumnal plaint of the Bluebird. A loud, explosive cry, not unlike that of a ~~young~~ Downy Woodpecker anxious about her young, is also frequently given, by the adult female Grosbeak as nearly as I can ascertain.

July 17.

Habia ludoviciana.

Concord, Mass. Nest.

1898. May 20. Spent two hours or more immediately after breakfast rambling about in the woods on and behind Ball's Hill. """"""" On the south side of Ball's Hill a female Grosbeak was at work on her nest which she had only just begun. It was in a very unusual situation about 30 ft. above the ground near the extremity of a long, horizontal branch of a white pine in the middle of a dense cluster of green needles. The bird was collecting long, slender dead twigs. These she broke off the ends of the branches flying upward, seizing them in her bill, then dropping backwards and utilizing her weight precisely as the Trogons do when breaking off berries in Trinidad. She appeared to prefer the twigs of the high blueberry. Not once did she get any material from the ground. The male did not offer her any assistance but he sang gloriously in an oak near the pine all the time she was at work.

1899. Nest-building.

May 20. Saw two pairs of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks this morning, one near the cabin, the other on the river slope of the Blakemore woods. Both females were collecting building material and I saw the Blakemore Hill bird go to the nest which was in the top of a tall slender [tree] on the hillside about 40 yards from the river. The males followed their mates closely but rendered no assistance whatever. Neither sang but both kept

Habia ludoviciana.

Concord, Mass. Love call. Nest-building.

1899. up a low, tender call (*wòi-e*, *wòi-e* or *wòi-e-e*) which was also
May 20. occasionally given by the females. The female at the cabin
(2). was collecting dry grass at the river bank. Her mate finally left her still at work and flying off to the east end of the Hill began singing almost out of hearing. Earlier in the morning (the nest building was at 8 A.M.) I saw the pair at the cabin probing the blossoms of a black oak with their big bills flitting from branch to branch and keeping up the *wòi-e* call.

June. On the afternoon of June 2nd a male sang nearly an hour without changing his perch which was in the top of a large chestnut on Holden's Hill.

Evening Grosbeaks at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.— Since my previous note on the winter birds (Auk, Vol. XXXIV, 1917, No. 2, p. 217) Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) I am pleased to say have paid us a visit on their way home to the far northwest, being first noticed on March 10, when a pair were seen feeding on the seeds of the locust or false acacia tree. Five days later a flock of seven (out of which I obtained a fine male) visited my garden, feeding on the seeds of some crab apples still remaining on one of the trees, and on the twenty-first five more were observed in the same tree, of which no less than four were males in fine plumage. In addition to these fourteen examples Mr. W. E. Greer of Hatley Centre, informs me that he has seen a similar number, five on March 11, feeding on the seeds of some crab apples in his orchard, and nine on the seventeenth in a neighbor's orchard, which only alighted however for a minute (as there were no apples on the trees) and then continued their journey in a northerly direction. A noticeable feature this year both with regard to this species and the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) the last of which were seen on April 14, has been the large number of full plumaged males, so different from previous years, when nearly all the flocks were composed of either females or immature males. My example of *H. vespertina vespertina* was given to the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, and I believe I am correct in stating that so far as the present material (which is somewhat scanty) there goes, it seems to indicate that there is no such thing in Canada as the Western race.— H. Mousley, *Hatley, Que.*

Auk. Vol. XXXIV. Oct. 1917. p. 479.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

9. **Zamelodia ludoviciana.** Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—I have examined the skin of one of this species taken near Hampton in June, 1879.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, April, 1882, p. 105

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

51. **Zamelodia ludoviciana** *(Linn.) Coues.* Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—Common in low hard woods at Grand Falls. Rather common at Fort Fairfield, apparently more so than in eastern Massachusetts. Rather common at Houlton.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, July, 1882, p. 148

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P.Q.
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The mountain was fairly alive with these beautiful birds, and their merry jingling song resounded from the topmost branches of the beech trees. I only saw one female and shot six males.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 75

Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.

40. *Habia ludoviciana.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II. Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 81.

221. **Zamelodia ludoviciana.** Rose-breasted Grosbeak.— Regular spring migrant, fairly common May 10 to 23; Mr. Nash gives fall records from July 13 to the middle of August, and I took a young male on September 10, 1906.

An Abnormal Rose-breasted Grosbeak.— I have a female *Zamelodia ludoviciana* which I took on June 7, 1894, at Sand Lake, Parry Sound District, Ontario, and which closely resembles one described by Mr. Robert Barbour (Auk, 1913, page 435). In my bird the under parts are grayish white, the streaks are few, narrow and confined to the sides; the breast has a rather faint patch of deep chrome yellow which follows in general outline that of the adult male; the back is much lighter than is usual in the normal female, the feathers being edged with gray instead of brown which brings into contrast the dark centers of both the scapular and back feathers, the rump and upper tail coverts are olive gray; the axillars and under wing coverts are normal in color but a few of the latter have rose colored streaks which though very fine are more pronounced than usual. The bird was sexed and I think correctly by the late Mr. Geo. E. Atkinson.— J. H. Fleming, *Toronto, Ontario.*

Auk 31, Jan. 1914. p. 102.

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

35. Habia ludoviciana. Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

42. Habia ludoviciana. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. — Not very common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.152

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N.H. July-August, 1874. J. A. Allen

29. Habia ludoviciana. Seen once at Bethlehem.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F. H. Allen

Habia ludoviciana.—Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N.H. June 27, '92
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N.H.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak, two males.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. Habia ludoviciana

May

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

[illegible]

1894.

[illegible] 25 [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of that [illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] wood [illegible]

[illegible] below

[illegible] head [illegible]

[illegible] all [illegible]

[illegible]

Summer Bds, Mt Mansfield, Vt.

46. Zamelodia ludoviciana. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. — Noted several times in the maple woods at the base of the mountain, and once (a breeding pair) at an altitude of about 2000 feet.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p.343.

Mass (Winchendon)

1887

June 25th

Hydemeles ludoviciana

1888 Rose-breasted Grosbeak **S. W. Denton.**

May 12. Saw a pair at Riverside. the ♂ constantly uttering tzip-tzip-tzip. They kept in the oak trees in preference to pines & chestnut. and seemed to keep near the end of the branches where they seemed to get food.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.—Jas. J. McCarthy caught a male with bird lime in the suburbs of Boston, June 11, '83.

O.&O. VIII. July. 1883. p. 56.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Habia ludoviciana (Linn.), Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Summer resident, rare. Breeds.

O.&O. XII, Sept. 1887. p. 140

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

46. Habia ludoviciana.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire Cy, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

43. Habia ludoviciana. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.—Rather common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 45

1887 Cambridge, Mass

May 30 – A ♂ singing in our garden.

Hydemeles ludoviciana

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May $9\frac{3♂}{※}$ – $13^{1}_{※}$ – 16^{4} – 17^{2} – $21\frac{8}{※}$ 25^{1} – $26^{6}_{※}$
June $2^{3}_{※}$ – $3^{1}_{※}$ – $4^{4}_{※}$ – 6^{2} – $7^{6}_{※}$ – $16\frac{2}{※}$ $17^{6}_{※}$
July 7^{1} – $15^{1♂}$ – 31^{1}
Aug. 9^{1}

※ singing

Hydemeles ludoviciana.

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire Co. Mass. June 28 - July 16. W. Faxon

38. **Habia ludoviciana.** Rose-breasted Grosbeak. — Rather common. Noted on the mountains as high as 2500 feet.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 101

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Habia ludoviciana

June 6 $\frac{1\,5}{*}$ 7 $\frac{3}{*}$ nest 3 yng. 8 $\frac{3}{*}$ Saybrook

" 21 $\frac{1}{*}$ Vernon

" 22 $\frac{1}{*}$ 23 $\frac{3}{*}$ 24 $\frac{1}{*}$ 25 $\frac{2}{*}$ Andover & Bolton

Very much less numerous than in E. Mass. but yet not uncommon. In Conn. they do not apparently occur at all in the towns & villages, at least we saw them only in wild retired places – usually large tracts of oak & chestnut woods in or near a swamp or run. A nest with three young a few days old found June 7th was built in a dogwood (Cornus florida) on a rocky hillside near a brook.
Song normal.

General Notes

Winter Birds in Connecticut.

On Jan. 18, 1893, a freshly killed specimen of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was brought in. The bird was shot at Southington in the central part of the State, and was a male, and was apparently in good condition. While skinning it I discovered that the left tibia had been broken and healed again quite recently. The plumage was that of the young male as found here during the spring migrations.

A. H. Verrill, New Haven, Conn.

Auk X, April, 1893. p. 207-8.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H, Coues

43. **Guiraca ludoviciana**. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. — One specimen secured.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C.H, Merriam.

76. **Zamelodia ludoviciana** (*Linn.*) *Coues.* Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—Breeds; not uncommon in the areas of hard timber.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p.230

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring.

244. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rare. But two of these birds have come under my observation; those I shot and mounted.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p.83

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886.
Central Park, N.Y. City. A.G. Paine, Jr.

May 6, *Habia ludoviciana*, (595). Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

O. & O. XI. July. 1886. p.109

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axton], New York [1901].
May 20 to 25.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rare.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.299.

Hedymeles ludoviciana

Mass. 1880

In Holdens bird store in Boston I saw today a Grosbeak in a plumage new to me. The whole underparts from the throat to the crissum including the sides were uniform deep rose color nearly as bright as in the normal breast patch. The rump was also strongly rose-tinged and there was a wash of the same color on the superciliary stripe. The bird was evidently a ♂ and apparently adult for the wings and tail were ebon black

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A Singular Cage Plumage of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—In a Boston bird-store I lately saw a Rose-breasted Grosbeak in very remarkable plumage. The whole under-parts, from the throat to the crissum, including the sides, were uniform deep rose, nearly as vivid as is the normal breast-patch. The rump also was rose-tinted and there was a wash of the same color along the superciliary stripe. The bird was evidently a male and apparently an adult, for the wings and tail were clear black.

I was told that it had been kept in a cage for about six months; when first captured it was of the usual color, but shortly afterwards it moulted and the present plumage was assumed. The owner had never seen a similar case although he has had many of these Grosbeaks in confinement.—William Brewster. *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 6, July, 1881, p. 180.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

15. **Goniaphea ludoviciana.** Rose-breasted Grosbeak.—A specimen which I have examined, taken on Cape Cod, Mass., Sept., 1879, had many white feathers intermixed with the black of the head and interscapulars.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 28

Abnormal Plumage of Habia

Stamford, Connecticut, I shot a R

by dissection), which presented certain peculiarities of plumage. It showed the brown wing feathers of the immature bird, but the rose color was exceedingly prominent. Its size was large: 7 5-8 inches in length, and 4 1-2 inches wing. It differed from ordinary specimens of the second year in the following particulars: top of head, crown and neck black flecked with rose; a large rose-white patch specked with black at back of neck; rump rosy white; tail coverts black with white tips; tail as in old male; lower parts and chest as in adult male; throat entirely rose red; chin black; long quills of wing brown as in second year plumage; rest of wing as in adult male; shoulder with one or two rose flecks; a rose-white streak starting at base of lower mandible, extending down the throat to the chest, then abruptly turning across the neck, past the shoulder, and terminating in the white patch at back of neck; a second stripe starts at base of upper mandible, continues over the eye, and down the neck to the white patch. This second stripe is narrow, but bright rose-red from the bill to the eye, and then becomes broader and lighter as it extends down the neck.—Louis H. Porter, *Stamford, Conn.*

Auk 9, July, 1892, p. 302.

The clerk assured me that it had not been dyed in any way. It was caught last Spring and had recently changed to this plumage which he said was quite new to him although he had seen many caged specimens

Published Bull. N.O.C.

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Bull. N.O.C. 6, July, 1881, p. 180.

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Hedymeles ludoviciana

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Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 28

General Notes.

Abnormal Plumage of Habia ludoviciana.—On May 17, 1892, at Stamford, Connecticut, I shot a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a male (as proved by dissection), which presented certain peculiarities of plumage. It showed the brown wing feathers of the immature bird, but the rose color was exceedingly prominent. Its size was large: 7 5-8 inches in length, and 4 1-2 inches wing. It differed from ordinary specimens of the second year in the following particulars: top of head, crown and neck black flecked with rose; a large rose-white patch specked with black at back of neck; rump rosy white; tail coverts black with white tips; tail as in old male; lower parts and chest as in adult male; throat entirely rose red; chin black; long quills of wing brown as in second year plumage; rest of wing as in adult male; shoulder with one or two rose flecks; a rose-white streak starting at base of lower mandible, extending down the throat to the chest, then abruptly turning across the neck, past the shoulder, and terminating in the white patch at back of neck; a second stripe starts at base of upper mandible, continues over the eye, and down the neck to the white patch. This second stripe is narrow, but bright rose-red from the bill to the eye, and then becomes broader and lighter as it extends down the neck.—LOUIS H. PORTER, *Stamford, Conn.*

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THE AUK:

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF

ORNITHOLOGY.

VOL. XVI. October, 1899. No. 4.

WINTER PLUMAGES:—ILLUSTRATED BY THE ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*ZAMELODIA LUDOVICIANA*).

BY WITMER STONE.

Plate IV.

On the accompanying plate Mr. Fuertes has represented the male of the well known Rose-breasted Grosbeak in the plumage of the first winter, a condition often known as the 'bird of the year,' and also the winter plumage of the fully adult bird of two years or more.

The differences are not very obvious at first sight but will be found to be greater upon more minute examination, though they are probably more striking in the specimens themselves than in a plate where the figures are necessarily reduced.

Corresponding differences are exhibited by young and old winter specimens of a number of our common birds, and the subject is one of considerable interest.

In April, 1896, the writer published a paper on the 'Molting of Birds,' in which the seasonal plumages were tabulated, and in the last number of 'The Auk' Dr. Dwight has published a scheme identical with the above except that he proposes the term 'Juvenal' for what was formerly known as the 'First Plumage'; and adds an earlier stage, the 'Natal Down' which was not considered in the former paper.

In both the articles referred to, attention is called to the difference in the winter plumages of birds, due to age. Some species also exhibit corresponding differences in the spring or nuptial plumage, but this is not so common.

The most interesting point in connection with these winter plumages is the apparent scarcity of adult birds during the fall migration. This has frequently been noticed, especially by Mr. C. W. Beckham,[1] and has been generally considered to be due to the earlier migration of the old birds and the probability that they travel more rapidly or with fewer stops.

In the case of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, I examined the fall specimens in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, the American Museum of Natural History, the U. S. National Museum, and the private collections of Mr. William Brewster and several others, and while birds in the 'First Winter' plumage were abundant I found only two[2] in the 'Adult Winter' plumage.

The scarcity of these adult specimens has caused a difference of opinion as to the character of the adult winter plumage of several species, and even to-day authorities are divided upon the question of the winter plumage of so familiar a species as the Black-bellied Plover (*Squatarola squatarola*), some claiming that the adults are nearly identical with the first year birds in winter, while others state that they are always more or less black beneath, as in spring.

Such black-bellied specimens are certainly taken in fall but they are rare and are regarded by the former of the above 'schools' as exceptional plumages!

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak exhibits about as great a variety of plumages as is to be found among our passerine birds. It seems to molt regularly twice a year, though the spring molt is usually confined to the body plumage.

The adult in winter as shown in the plate differs from the 'First Winter' plumage in the greater amount of black above and rose beneath, and in the jet black instead of brown remiges and rectrices. After the spring molt both adult and first year birds appear in the familiar black, white and pink nuptial plumage, but, as in the early spring Bobolink, the tips of the feathers are often bordered with brown, which is lost through abrasion by the time the bird reaches its nesting ground. Even in the nuptial plumage the old and young birds can still be separated by the color of the flight feathers, which remain just as before the molt.[1]

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[1] Auk, 1887, p. 79.

[2] Three others in this plumage were examined, taken in winter south of the United States.

28

With this outline of the plumages of the Rose-breast, it is interesting to see what our standard works have to say on the subject. In not a single one is there anything to indicate that the adult male has a winter plumage in any way different from the well-known spring dress! In Ridgway's 'Manual' the adult winter plumage is apparently described as the 'First Winter' plumage, as it is stated that "the wings and tail are as in the adult male." In Coues 'Key' we are led to believe that the young male does not acquire the rose color beneath the wings until the first full plumage is acquired.

In the British Museum Catalogue,[2] however, we find the most remarkable statement. Dr. Sharpe evidently had winter birds of various ages before him and in the absence of molting specimens fell back upon the famous color change theory as a solution of the question.

The First Winter plumage is first described and then he adds: "The slight tinge of rose-colour on the breast of the young male greatly develops when the bird is in its winter-quarters, and the streaks on the breast and throat gradually disappear as the red colour spreads upwards, and the adult plumage appears to be gained by a change of feather and not by any moult. As the black spreads on the upper surface the streaks disappear, and at last the ochreous-brown colour, which is characteristic of the young bird, remains only in the shape of edgings to the mantle, back and scapulars," etc. He further states that he has seen no specimen which proves to his satisfaction that the old male has a distinct winter plumage, and that in young birds at least, the wing quills are apparently molted in spring!

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[1] The first year bird, however, often molts his tail in spring along with the body feathers so that in the 'First Nuptial' plumage, the tail is often black while the wings are brown.

[2] Vol. VII, p. 60.

28

I need only say that the lower figure of our plate, which represents the adult winter plumage, and which is evidently the condition described by Dr. Sharpe as showing the expansion of the pink, was drawn from a bird secured in Illinois, Sept. 1871, far north of its winter quarters, while another in Mr. Brewster's collection, taken in Oxford Co., Maine, Aug. 20, is actually in the midst of the molt from the brown-winged pink and white 'First Nuptial' plumage to the adult winter plumage here figured.

This clearly illustrates the lack of accuracy with which seasonal plumages are described in our works of reference, and I may say that the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is not alone in this treatment.

The moral seems to be that in the present advanced condition of American ornithology, when we are splitting hairs in the matter of geographical subspecies, it is high time that each plumage that a bird assumes should be properly understood and described, and more attention given to one of the most interesting branches of ornithological science.

Auk, XVI, Oct., 1899, pp. 305-8.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Zamelodia ludoviciana. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK.

The few Rose-breasted Grosbeaks which summer in the section of country covered by my observations sing well into the dog-days. I have heard them till the middle of August.

In the autumn the adult male seems to be uncommon, and I have never heard its song at that season; but on September 23, 1879, I shot a young male with crimsoning breast, which was in full song. **Auk, 2, April, 1885. p.** 151.

Hydemeles ludoviciana

Notes.

Williamstown, Mass.
June 26, 1883

The alarm note is a sharp *yick* repeated an indefinite number of times. (Notes made in the *woods* in the Hopper.)

In the afternoon about sunset a pair of these Grosbeaks alighted on the fence in front of farmer Pettit's. The ♀ had a straw in her bill but she nevertheless called *quoi*, *quoi* to which the ♂ responded with a burst of his rich flowing song. Then both flew together to the woods.

Shelburne, N. H.

Hydemeles ludoviciana

1884

July. Not uncommon, especially in hardwood timber along streams. A ♂ in full song July 16th. None heard later. A brood of young met with among small pines, July 17. They uttered the plaintive call heard only in the autumn and were very shy. After July 20 these Grosbeaks were seen much about raspberry patches (they feed freely on this fruit) alighting on the tops of dead trees, sometimes descending after the berries, often rising high in air & flying off calling as they went. Their habits at

The Singing of Birds. E.P. Bicknell.

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This season remind me of those of
Bluebirds in late autumn. They
are shy & restless, flying a great
deal, and seemingly always shifting
on high, of broad intonation,

Cambridge, Mass. Hydemeles ludoviciana

1884

Aug. 18 Saw seven or eight near Fresh Pond. There was a little family party of four in the Maple swamp. They were all in brown plumage but one of them sang several times in an undertone, yet in firm, decided tones. Occasionally one would utter the plaintive fall-note peer and they all chirped freely. Evidently they were migrants & I think the bulk of the migration passes this month

Cambridge, Mass. Hydemeles ludoviciana.

1885.

July 17 Two bob-tailed young accompanied by the ad. ♀ in the Maple Swamp and a single young bird in the top of an elm on Sparks St. All three young were very noisy calling incessantly for food. Their note was almost identical with that of the young Purple Finch but perhaps a trifle louder and fuller. I shot the ad ♀ and found that she was moulting and fast assuming an autumnal plumage similar to that of the young ♂.

Aug. 20. A young ♂ among yellow pines warbling softly, yet with nearly as much finish as the adults (Coolidge farm, Watertown)

" 27. A young ♂ in the Maple Swamp singing finely & very nicely (Cambridge)

Sept. 1, Two in oak woods feeding at the ends of the branches & uttering only the fall note (Watertown)

" 7. One in our lindens clicking and uttering the fall-note, a plaintive whee-e.

" 12. One in oak words (Watertown)

Cambridge, Mass. Hedymeles ludoviciana.

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Mass. (Cambridge) Hydemeles ludoviciana

1888 Late singing

July 2 The young left the nest in our garden June 21. Up to that date the ♂ sang daily at least once or twice at morning & evening. I heard him on the 23rd June but not after that until July 2 when he sang several times in succession about sunset. (The evening clear & cold. *Vireo flavifrons* & *V. gilvus* also in song after a comparative silence of a week or more)

July 4 Our Grosbeak in full song this morning about 9 o'clock. He was in a young elm directly over Sparks St. and sang at frequent

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W. Middlesex Co. Mass.
June 25-30, 1889.

Hydemeles ludoviciana

A male heard singing June 26th somewhere in the woods on the western side of Mt Watatic was the only individual noted during a stay of nearly a week at Ashby, during which time we explored the surrounding region very thoroughly. It is remarkable that this species should not be found there, at least as commonly as in the eastern part of Middlesex county. It will be remembered, however, that I did not find it at Winchendon in 1888 and the affinity of the Winchendon fauna with that of Ashby is very close.

intervals for half-an-hour. Much of the time his notes were nearly drowned by the rattle of carts passing beneath but this did not seem to ~~alarm~~ disturb him in the least. His song was weaker & less expressive than in June - more like a Robin's. The morning was clear & hot.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.
June 25-30, 1889.

Hydemeles ludovicianus

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Mass. (Concord) Hydemeles ludoviciana

1886 Song and habits.

May 13 Near the Lime Kiln I saw six or seven, one a ♀. The males were in full song. It is a common occurrence to find two singing in the same woods within perhaps 100 yards of one another. This happened to-day. One bird would sing and the moment it ceased the other would take up the strain each apparently trying to outdo its rival. The song is wonderfully rich, sweet, tender, and expressive. I have gradually come to think it the finest bird song I have

Mass. (Cambridge) Hydemeles ludoviciana

1888. Nesting in city garden - singing on nest.

June 10 On June 6 I found a Grosbeak's nest in the top of a dense-foliaged pear tree in our garden. It was perhaps 20 ft. above the ground and supported by a number of upright slender twigs. Since then I have visited it frequently and noted the following facts. The ♂ sits during the entire day or, at least, from 9 A. M. (when my earliest visits have been made) and sings, on the nest, loudly, at intervals of perhaps ten minutes during the midday hours, oftener, sometimes almost incessantly, late in the afternoon just before we heard. It expresses feeling rather than sentiment but nevertheless I prefer it to the Hermit's pure melody and I think, but am not quite sure, also to the Fox Sparrows or Orchard Orioles.

The bird sings many times in the same place and often sits motionless or nearly so for half an hour or more in the top of an oak or birch overlooking his favorite swamp and at intervals of perhaps 30 seconds repeats his delightful performance. He is very tame under such conditions - quite oblivious in fact to your presence or approach however much noise you may make among the brushwood.

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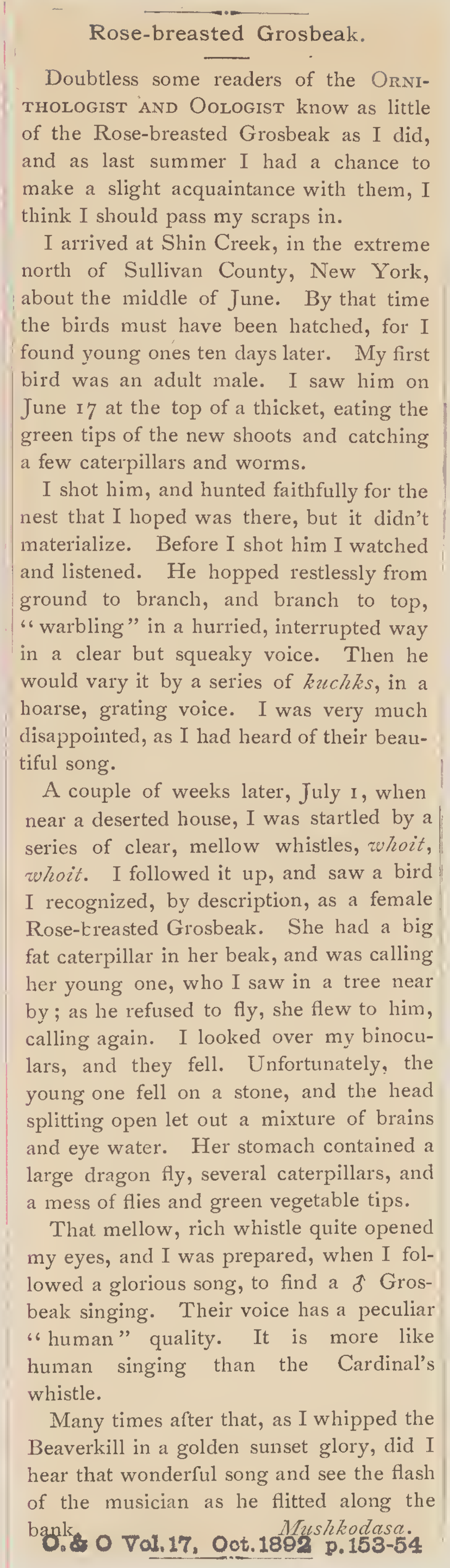
sunset he is relieved by the ♀ and between sunset & twilight he roams about the neighboring gardens singing freely in the different places he visits. While sitting he usually faces the N.East but once I found him facing the S.W.

June 20 Adult ♂ sitting (or standing) in the nest this morning

" 21 - One of the young out & in the nest pear tree hopping & fluttering from twig to twig & calling incessantly its note closely resembling the call of Sialia sialis. The ♂ came once & fed the young with something that looked like a small green caterpillar. The ♂ sings still but only once or twice during the day.

July 2 ♂ singing in garden after silence of over a week



Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Doubtless some readers of the ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST know as little of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak as I did, and as last summer I had a chance to make a slight acquaintance with them, I think I should pass my scraps in.

I arrived at Shin Creek, in the extreme north of Sullivan County, New York, about the middle of June. By that time the birds must have been hatched, for I found young ones ten days later. My first bird was an adult male. I saw him on June 17 at the top of a thicket, eating the green tips of the new shoots and catching a few caterpillars and worms.

I shot him, and hunted faithfully for the nest that I hoped was there, but it didn't materialize. Before I shot him I watched and listened. He hopped restlessly from ground to branch, and branch to top, "warbling" in a hurried, interrupted way in a clear but squeaky voice. Then he would vary it by a series of *kuchks*, in a hoarse, grating voice. I was very much disappointed, as I had heard of their beautiful song.

A couple of weeks later, July 1, when near a deserted house, I was startled by a series of clear, mellow whistles, *whoit*, *whoit*. I followed it up, and saw a bird I recognized, by description, as a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak. She had a big fat caterpillar in her beak, and was calling her young one, who I saw in a tree near by; as he refused to fly, she flew to him, calling again. I looked over my binoculars, and they fell. Unfortunately, the young one fell on a stone, and the head splitting open let out a mixture of brains and eye water. Her stomach contained a large dragon fly, several caterpillars, and a mess of flies and green vegetable tips.

That mellow, rich whistle quite opened my eyes, and I was prepared, when I followed a glorious song, to find a ♂ Grosbeak singing. Their voice has a peculiar "human" quality. It is more like human singing than the Cardinal's whistle.

Many times after that, as I whipped the Beaverkill in a golden sunset glory, did I hear that wonderful song and see the flash of the musician as he flitted along the bank.

Mushkodasa.

O.& O Vol.17, Oct.1892 p.153-54

Mass. (Concord) Hydemeles ludoviciana ✓

Two nests - ♂ incubating

1886

May 31 Two nests one with 4 eggs much incubated, the other with 3 fresh eggs. Both nests similarly and very conspicuously placed in the tops of thin-foliaged, solitary barberry bushes at a height of about 7 ft., one bush growing ~~on the~~ just outside the edge of a birch thicket in an open pasture, the other by a stone wall bordering a road on one side and an open meadow on the other. The ♀ sitting on the set of 3 eggs. She glided off when I advanced my hand and hopped about in the top of the bush uttering a low, soft pheew

Mass. (Concord) Hydemeles ludoviciana ✓

Nesting habits.

1886

June 12 Took a second set of 4 eggs from the same pair of birds robbed of a similar set May 31st. This second nest was built in a barberry in a precisely similar manner to the first & less than fifty yards distant. I found it May 7 when the ♂ was sitting on a single egg. He allowed me to almost touch him, then slid off quietly & disappeared. This was about 10 a.m.

This evening I visited the place at sunset. I heard the ♂ singing as I approached & found him again sitting. He would not leave the

Mass. (Concord)

Hedymeles ludoviciana ✓

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This evening I visited the place at sunset. I heard the ♂ singing as I approached & found him again sitting. He would not leave the

and regarding me with curiosity rather than fear.

I retired a few rods when she immediately returned to her eggs. Shortly afterwards the ♂ sang in low tones in an elm near by. The ♀ at once flew to him and they exchanged a few low tender notes when the ♀ flew off and the ♂ entered the nest and settled himself on the eggs. I waited nearly an hour hoping he would sing while sitting but he did not. Then I approached and was about to reach up my hand when he came off with ruffled plumage and actually made a dash at my head uttering a harsh chattering cry that I never heard before. He repeated this action several times. & the ♀ came back & "chirked" incessantly. I took the nest & again retired. Both birds examined the empty bush once or twice rather listlessly when the ♀ flew away & the ♂ began singing superbly.

eggs until I actually touched his tail. Then he fluttered about my head coming within two feet & making a great outcry his note being *chick*, *chick* much softer and quite unlike the usual hard metallic *chik*

and regarding me with curiosity rather than fear.

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Rose-breasted Grosbeak. May 24, '83, I found a nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak containing one egg. The female flew from the nest as I approached and alighted in a low tree very near me. When I visited the place the following day the male bird was upon the nest. I waited until there were four eggs and then took them, feeling proud enough of my prize. These birds have never been seen in this locality before to my knowledge. They were strangers to me but it didn't take me long to get acquainted with them. Are they common in any portions of Eastern Conn?

Chas. Edw. Prior, Jewett City, Conn.

O. & O. VIII. Sept. 1883. p. 71

A young collector here has taken three sets of five and four of four Rose-breasted Grosbeak's eggs this last season. I had always supposed four was the average number until I saw your article in June number giving three as the average.

M. Day Murphey Jr. Cortland, N. Y.

O. & O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p. 13

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

(*Zamelodia ludoviciana.*)

BY C. O. TRACY, TAFTSVILLE, VT.

This bird is a fairly common Summer resident of this locality. Within the memory of the writer it was very rare. Mr. Zadock Thompson did not include it in his list of Vermont birds in his "Thompson's Vermont," published in 1842. It seems probable, however, that it was known in the State before that time. (Will any-one having knowledge of its early appearane in Vermont, kindly report the same to the O. and O. or the writer?) The sexes arrive together. The male is at once conspicuous, both by his beautiful plumage and melodious song. While essentially a forest bird—and one must see and hear him in his forest home to see his full beauty, and hear him in his happiest song—they often come into the orchard and shade trees about our homes. Along the lightly timbered river banks and roadsides they find their favorite breeding places, but these must be at no great distance from the more heavily timbered forest. The forked top of a sapling is usually selected for a nesting place. Sometimes, however, the horizontal branch of a large forest tree is chosen. The nest is a frail structure, made of fine dry twigs and a few grass or weed stalks. Sometimes only twigs are used, and these are nearly always Hemlock. It is seldom less than eight, or more than twenty feet from the ground. The full complement of eggs is usually four, sometimes but three. Dimensions vary from 1.x.75 to .90x.70 of an inch; color greenish blue, spotted with different shades of brown.

Most of their eggs are laid the first week in June. The earliest and latest dates that I have taken full fresh sets are June 2d and 23d. Both sexes incubate, the male performing his full share of this important duty. My records show that where I have made observations in thirty-four cases, the nests were occupied by males twenty-three times and females eleven. By the second week in September they have all departed for the south.

O. & O. X. Mar. 1885. p. 37.

Elmer T. Judd, Bethel, Conn. writes of finding a nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak containing five eggs, and says it is his first instance of finding so many in one nest. He asks if it is common to find as many?

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 80.

"Botany of Birds' Nests."

Editor Ornithologist and Oölogist—Sir: Last night two little boys who have resided in South America, and are much interested in birds, brought a bird's nest to me to identify. I told them it was a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. They then gave me the particulars about the three young, which they saw fly, and the old birds, which made it positive. These birds, as you are aware, are not very common. The nest was on grounds well protected.

It was the nest of this bird that set me to thinking what an interesting matter it would be to study the botany of birds' nests. Those found around Rockville, Conn., were all built alike, of one material, which puzzled me for several years. At last the material proved to be the slender branches of the hemlock, stripped of its leaves. The young left this nest in July. You should make a brief note of this find so far east.—*J. M. Wade.*

O. & O. XI. Sept. 1886. p. 144.

Breeding of Habia ludoviciana in Niagara County, New York.— Although I have collected and made observations of birds in this County for the past ten years, not until the past season have I found the Rose-breasted Grosbeak breeding here. On May 26, 1888, I found in the edge of a piece of woods a nest about five feet from the ground, containing one egg, I was unable to identify. Returning on the 30th, I was surprised to find a male of this species on the nest. I stood within three feet of him for some time, but he did not move, and not until my hand was within a foot of him did he show any signs of leaving. There were now four eggs in the nest, and I left them till later so as to see the female on the nest. But on returning two hours afterward, I again found the male sitting. I took only the nest and eggs and on emptying them I found that incubation had begun in two of them, and concluded the male must have begun sitting as soon as the first egg was laid.

On June 8, in another piece of woods one mile from the other nest, I found another nest containing two young birds about three days old, and one egg which looked so clean that I took it and on emptying it found that incubation had just commenced. This time the female was on the nest, and was more reluctant to leave than the male had been in the other case, and not till my hand had nearly closed over her did she conclude to do so. The nest was at about the same elevation as the first.

On June 23, but a few rods from the last nest, I found another, with the male on, containing one young bird not over one or two days old, and three eggs. I took one, in which incubation was found to have begun about three days before. On the morning of July 4, I found that the first young bird had left the nest, and on passing in the afternoon found it on a small bush and secured it. I had but little trouble in raising it, as it would eat almost anything given it. I kept it till late in November, when I sent it to Mr. Hornaday of the U. S. National Museum, but it died on the way, probably from want of water.

From my observations of the species I conclude that the male does most of the sitting during the incubation of the eggs.— S. L. Davison, *Lockport, Niagara Co., N. Y.*

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. [illegible]-191-192

ROSE BREASTED GROSBEAK. — "Jack" is this month, July, four years old, and is in fine plumage, except the tail which has

but the reason has not been settled to the satisfaction of ornithologists.—*J. T. T. Reed, Ryhope, Durham Co., England.*

CURIOUS NESTING PLACES. — Wm. R. Wharton of Philadelphia reports finding a Great-crested Flycatcher's nest in the hole of a small hollow tree that was lying on the ground. It was the more remarkable as there were plenty of trees with holes in them. This nest contained five eggs, and as usual the snake skin, which is always a part of this Flycatcher's nest. It was on the island of Anglesea, twelve miles from Cape May on the coast of West Jersey.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. "Jack" is now in his fifth year and begins to show his age. He has sung more or less since "January 1st, but not his full notes until into April." He still sings the full notes of the Indigo Bird and also the Canary, which he has not seen or heard for four years. Last Summer a pair of Wrens raised one nest of young in a box near him, and he has their notes complete. In the moult, commenced the middle of last August, he shed every tail and wing feather which we preserved. In his December and January moult he did not shed a single long feather. In January, February, March and April of each year, he will go through the most remarkable capers imaginable with the lady that cares for him.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. T. J. Rigney saw a male at Pittsfield, Mass., May 19, '83.

O.&O. VIII. July. 1883. p. 55.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Dec. 21, 1882, Jack sang his full notes for the first time; on the 26th sang his canary notes, while bunched up like a sick bird, as usual; sang several times through January, and soon got into his full notes, and sang as loud as ever, it being his fifth year. July 6, when in his prime, he was stolen from his cage on the piazza. We found him in a bird store in the city and bought him back. It was a severe strain on him; he was not so lively afterward, but sang up to October. To-day, Nov. 22, 1883, he is in as fine condition as he ever was, but not in song. He will consume nearly his full weight in celery each day, besides his regular feed.

O.&O. VIII. Nov. 1883. p. 86.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

BY JOS. M. WADE, BOSTON, MASS.

many parts. The soil within the valley of the Kalamazoo river is a dark sandy loam, while heavy clay and sandy regions are found at many points. The geographical or geological features are in nowise unusual. Many small streams, draining at least twenty lakes, flow into the river, or south into the St. Joseph.

The valley of the Kalamazoo river is sunk below the general level of the country to nearly one hundred feet, while some of the higher elevations are quite one hundred and fifty feet above the river.

The city of Kalamazoo, situated nearly in the center of the county, is built upon an extensive Burr Oak plain, while the surrounding hills are

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My Rose-breasted Grosbeak "Jack."

As "Jack's" life history has been written in O. and O. there may be some reader that would like to know that he is still healthy and in beautiful plumage singing as hard as ever and commenced earlier this year than usual. He will be eight years old in July. He shows age only in the night when his head hangs down, and once in a great while he will drop from the perch, but he flies back quickly. The late Dr. William Wood used to say that he never knew one to live over two years in confinement. Jack's ways are as interesting as those of any trained parrot.—*J. M. Wade.*

O.&O. XI. July. 1886. p. 104

Rose Breasted Grosbeak "Jack."

Editor O. & O.:—I again ask you to place on record the fact that my Rose Breasted Grosbeak still lives and is now ten years old. The record in the O. & O. shows that he was taken from the nest a naked little thing early in July 1878, he and has kept in good health ever since. The present spring he commenced to sing as usual, but seemed to take cold and has not sung since, although he tries hard and seems to be in good health and is in fine plumage. "Jack" is a remarkably intelligent bird and blessed with a good memory. He is just beginning to moult and shows unmistakable signs of age. He is perhaps the first Rose Breasted Grosbeak that ever spent ten years time in the same cage.—JOS. M. WADE.

O.&O. XIII. Aug. 1888 p. 116

Rose Breasted Grosbeak. — "Jack" is this month, July, four years old, and is in fine plumage, except the tail which has again broken off without any perceptible reason. The rose-colored breast and the black head and back are very distinct and dense in shade. He commenced his song December 23, and has continued with little intermission so far, and is as healthy today as any wild bird.

We gave part of the life history of this bird in confinement in No. 9, Vol. vi, to which we refer our new readers. The lady who brought "Jack" up made her usual annual visit this month, and as a matter of curiosity we arranged to be present at the meeting. The cage in which "Jack" is confined is a large one, giving him all the room required for comfort. As soon as the lady came in sight, "Jack" sprang across the cage to meet her, and when she called him by name he was wild with delight, filling the cage as it were and singing the sweetest notes imaginable all the while she was present. And this has been repeated every time the lady goes near the cage, and he recognizes her at sight, no matter what the dress might be or how it might be changed. This has been continued now for three Summers in succession and one Winter. No bird receives better care than this one, and he is continually petted and yet to no one but the lady that raised him does he ever make such a display of his affections.

O.&O. VII. Oct. 1882. p. 164

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aginable with the lady that cares for him.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak. T. J. Rigney saw a male at Pittsfield, Mass., May 19, '83.

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O.&O. VIII. Nov. 1883. p. 86.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

BY JOS. M. WADE, BOSTON, MASS.

My Rose-breasted Grosbeak "Jack," so often mentioned in your columns, commenced his song this year Jan. 28, and within a few weeks was in full song, which was continued nearly up to October, after which he sang considerable, but in a lower key. This year he has sung his own notes less than ever; in fact very little of his own free wild notes. But he has been quite a mimic, imitating other birds, but being in a changed tone, it was always pleasing. He imitated more particularly the Wren, the Bluebird and the Song Sparrow, and succeeded very well—enough so to bring passers-by to a halt to listen He shed the first three long feathers July 13, and continued for six weeks or two months, singing all the while. His eating capacity is something remarkable. It is my impression that there are days in which he eats his weight in celery, beside his seed and other food. He will eat or drink anything that he sees the family eating or drinking—from medicine, beer, liquor, to sour krout. He can be persuaded to twitter and trill any time during the year. His affectionate performances are something remarkable, but he will not exhibit before strangers. He eats green peas and opens the pods himself, sometimes eating the pods entire, or rather the succulent part. This he always does with string beans. Grapes he takes on his bill and will sometimes hold one on his elevated beak until he has about finished a whole grape except the skin. It is always interesting to see him place a grape or pea on the perch. He will do it with ease, when it seems impossible. He never uses his feet in eating. He is now in his seventh year, and has never lost the rose breast when putting on the female plumage in the Fall. He has never been without several kinds of food in his cage at the same time. He is now, Nov. 23, gradually moulting for his early Spring song. In this moult he never sheds his long feathers, simply puts on his male plumage. The rose breast which came with the nest feathers has never been changed, except to become slightly speckled in the Fall.

July 3d, 1883, he was stolen from his cage on the piazza when in full song. Several days afterwards, I found "Jack" in a bird store in Boston—a sad looking bird.

O.&O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 5.

[illegible] commenced to sing as usual, but seemed to take cold and has not sung since, although he tries hard and seems to be in good health and is in fine plumage. "Jack" is a remarkably intelligent bird and blessed with a good memory. He is just beginning to moult and shows unmistakable signs of age. He is perhaps the first Rose Breasted Grosbeak that ever spent ten years time in the same cage.—Jos. M. Wade.

O.&O. XIII. Aug. 1888 p. 116

Nomenclature of North American
Birds, Elliott Coues.

193. **Goniaphæa ludoviciana** (*L.*) *Bowd.* The genus *Hedymeles*, Cab., 1851, was based upon this species, but cannot be used for it because of *Hedymela*, Sundev. (Öfv. Vet. Akad., 1846, 223) for another genus of birds, the difference being merely dialectic. Cabanis seems to have proposed it simply because "*Habia* Reich. 1850" was not classically correct. But *Habia* or *Abia* is said to be antedated by *Habia*, Lesson, 1831, and therefore untenable. "*Goniaphea* Bowdich 1825" is said to be based upon the Rose-breasted Grosbeak; but I suspect that there is some mistake here. I have carefully examined Bowdich's "Excursions in Madeira," which is the reference given for the name, without finding any such genus; and Gray's Hand-list gives a different type for *Goniaphea*. If the Rose-breasted and Black-headed Grosbeaks are to be generically distinguished from the Blue Grosbeak, a new generic name seems to be required: ZAMELODIA *ludoviciana*, *Z. melanocephala*.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, April, 1880, p. 98

The Pine Grosbeaks sometimes come in great numbers to feed on the seeds of the hackmetack trees, of which they are very fond, and seasons when they are with us they are always to be found in their immediate vicinity. They eat any grain that is exposed to them, and also devour great quantities of maple buds, visiting indiscriminately trees in the heart of the town or in suburban villages, and I am sorry to say that the Purple Finches and Thistle Birds sometimes keep them company.

Gloucester
H. G. White Orn & Ool 17, Oct
1892 p. 148-51

125. *Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Colorado Potato Beetle.* By Richard E. Kunze. *Ibid.*, XIV, pp. 521, 522, July, 1880. On the ability of the bird to eat these poisonous insects with impunity. Amer. Naturalist

423. *Rose Breasted Grosbeak* [*in Confinement*]. Editorial. *Ibid.*, p. 164.—Further account of "Jack," a pet bird. (See *anteà*, No. 335, Vol. VIII, p. 177.) O. & O. Vol. VII

909. *Rose-breasted Grosbeaks Abundant* [*at Taunton, Mass.*]. By J. C. Cahoon. *Ibid.*, p. 444. For. & Stream. XXII

335. *Rose-breasted Grosbeak.* Editorial. *Ibid.*, VI, pp. 68, 69, 84.—Account of a caged specimen. O. and O.

742. *Rose-breasted Grosbeak.* By Chas. Edw. Prior. *Ibid.*, p. 71. O. & O. Vol. VIII

72. *The Potato Bug Bird Identified.* *Ibid.*, XIII, p. 907. — This title covers a communication signed "M" from Pembina, D. T., one from T. S. Roberts, of Minneapolis, Minn., and another from Prof. S. A. Forbes, of Normal, Ill., all affirming the Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Goniaphea ludoviciana*) to be the only species they have observed either feeding upon the potato beetle or in whose stomach they have found the remains of this insect. These writers all speak of this bird as regularly frequenting potato fields to feed upon this destructive pest. See further on the same subject F. E. L. Beal, op. cit. p. 1005. For. & Stream

Guiraca
caerulea

100. *Northern Range of the Blue Grosbeak.* By Wm. Couper. *Ibid.*, XIV. p. 509,—On its capture at Bic. on the northern shore of the St. Lawrence River. For. & Stream

Rare Birds in Nova Scotia.
J. Bernard Gilpin.

, a Blue Grosbeak mounted by Mr. Downs, and a small flock of Redwing Blackbirds, young males and females, on Devil's Island, near Halifax, in November, after the storm of Oct. 12, 1871.

O. & O. VII. May. 15. 1882. p. 123.

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, pp. 342-3.

First Occurrence of the Blue Grosbeak in New Hampshire.— On May 26, 1894, an adult male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca cærulea*), in full plumage, was seen near the house for about twenty minutes; I succeeded in getting within ten feet of the bird, so that I could see all the markings distinctly without the aid of a glass. I had no means of securing the specimen, but there can be, I think, no doubt as to the identification.

The probability that this was an escaped cage bird at once suggests itself, but it is safe to say that the bird did not belong to anyone in this town or immediate neighborhood. Moreover, the feet and plumage seemed in too good condition for a newly escaped captive.[1]— MABEL C. BERRY, *East Derry, N. H.*

[1] Previous New England records are: Boardman (Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., IX, 1862, p. 127), near Calais, Me.; Plummer (Bull. N. O. C., V, 1880, p. 184), Brookline, Mass.; and the Grand Menan, N. B., record by Herrick.

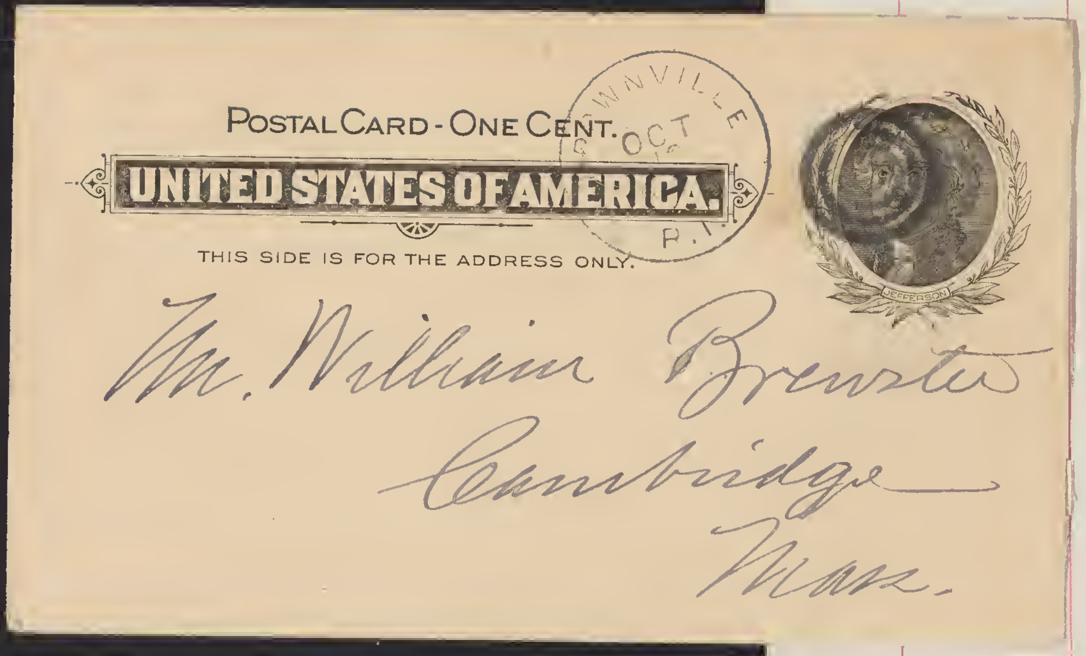
First Capture of the Blue Grosbeak in Massachusetts. — Mr. Gordon Plummer kindly informs me, that on May 29, 1880, he took a fine male of this species (*Goniaphea cœrulea*) in Brookline. This forms its first record for Massachusetts, and the second for New England, the other being Calais, Me., Boardman, who records it (Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., IX, p. 127) as "Very uncertain, but common in the spring of 1861." Mr. Herrick also states (Bull. Essex Inst., V, p. 32) that a male was taken "in the spring of 1861" at Grand Menan, N. B. In my "List of the Birds of Massachusetts," published in 1878 (Bull. Essex Inst., X, pp. 3–37), I included it among the "Species of probable occurrence," remarking that it "is surely to be added, sooner or later, to the list of Massachusetts birds" (*l. c.*, p. 33).

In this connection it may be of interest to note that during the last two years nine species and two varieties have been added to the 316 species up to that time fully authenticated as birds of Massachusetts. These, with the four formerly occurring but now extirpated, bring the total number to 329 thus far identified as belonging to the fauna of this State. — J. A. Allen, *Cambridge, Mass.* Bull. N.O.C. 5, July, 1880, p. 184.

Drownville R.I. 10-12-99

Secured among my blackberry bushes this noon a yg Guiraca caerulea mutilated it horribly — sent it to J.M.S. for Park Collection if anything can be done with it. Was first attracted by an unknown note, and its peculiar actions for a purple finch which it somewhat resembled but did not act like.

Fraternally Yours F.T. Jencks



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WNVILLE
OCT 6
R.I.

Mr. William Brewster
Cambridge
Mass.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Guiraca cærulea. BLUE GROSBEAK.—This wanderer from the south was taken in May, 1843, at Canarsie. It is a very fine, adult, male specimen. Mr. Akhurst recollects having shot during his active collecting some three or four specimens of this exotic bird, and having seen a few others that he did not secure. However, it is a great many years since he has seen one.

Auk X. July, 1893 p **276**.

Plumage of some birds from upper
So. Carolina - Leverett M. Loomis.

Guiraca cærulea. — Wilson in his description of this species says, "The female is of a dark drab color, tinged with blue, and considerably lightest below." More recent writers appear to have overlooked that the female in high plumage exhibits considerable blue coloration, attesting that Wilson even at this day may be consulted with profit in matters relating purely to the technics of ornithology. The following descriptions of two specimens illustrate the higher colors assumed by the female.

♀ *ad.* (Aug. 25, 1885). Crown, rump, jugulum, fore breast, malar region, and lesser coverts, blue; occiput, auriculars, throat and neck all around, scapulars, edge of wing, upper tail-coverts, outer edges of rectrices, except lateral pair, strongly tinged with blue. This specimen is in worn plumage with three rectrices in process of renewal.

♀ *ad.* (May 7, 1891). Top of head, fore part of cervix, throat, jugulum, malar region, rump, lesser coverts, and edge of wing, blue, obscured by brownish tips to the feathers, particu-

differ widely in color. It is a question whether the variation in these cases may not be individual. Special investigation in each species alone will decide the matter.

An immature male with testes partially enlarged, taken May 18, 1891, has the blue chiefly confined to the sides of the head. In a series, the two females described above would far more readily be picked out as immature males. In the spring of 1890 males in full dress were secured from the outset. The following year only those in brown and blue plumage were obtained up to May 19, the last day search was made. Where the deeper colored plumage was concealed by brown tips to the feathers, the juvenile appearance of the birds of the second season appeared to be due to a retarding of the process of abrasion, which wearing away of the terminal portions of the feathers is manifest in this species from its first arrival in this locality.

Auk X, April, 1893. p.152-4.

Guiraca caerulea

1884.

Charleston, South Carolina

April 25. Saw two males in burnt pine woods and shot one. One was singing almost incessantly. Its song was closely similar to that of Icterus spurius for which I at first mistook it. It was rich, flowing and even louder than the Oriole's but a little less varied. Both birds were extremely shy. They acted very like Sialia flying down to the ground, alighting on weed stalks, and invariably sitting very erect. Wayne thinks he saw a ♂ on the 22nd

April 28. Saw a pair on James Id. they were feeding like Sc. spinus, at the ends of the branches in oak scrub.

May 2. Wayne saw ten & shot a ♀.

" 6. Saw four males and two or three ♀s feeding on oaks in a mixed state with Cy. ciris at cyanea and Dolichonyx. I chased these birds for nearly two hours but could not get a shot. They are shyer than any small bird of my acquaintance. They take to the highest trees & fly the moment they see you. It is difficult to get within 100 yds. Their note is a metallic chink a little like a Bobolink's, more like that of Cy. ciris. The song closely resembles the Purple Finch's but is less bold, more wandering, less fine. They sit erect like Bluebirds.

Spotted Eggs of the Blue Grosbeak.

BY T. D. PERRY, SAVANNAH, GA.

This retired but beautiful species (*Guiraca cœrulia*) has been written upon so often that it seems like trespassing upon the brother readers of the O. AND O. by afflicting them with it again, but the past season of 1887 has been one of successful events with me, and one in which so many new phases of bird life have been discovered, that I cannot refrain from ling about my discovering spotted eggs of this species.

May 24th, 1887, dawned bright and clear, and as usual I started for an all day's tramp, having nothing in particular to look for, but everything in general; so I kept well to the open country, which was thickly dotted with pine saplings, and a dense undergrowth of oak bushes. I had only gone a short distance when a bird flew from between my legs. I stopped short, parted the bushes, and there not more than two feet high, was a nest containing four pale bluish eggs with spots. I knew at a glance that I had never seen anything like them before, so I took them out carefully and began examining them, when by an accident one fell to the ground and was smashed, and the worst of it was that it was one of the best marked. As fretting would not replace it, however, I soon packed the remaining three in my collecting box and turned my attention to the nest, and as soon as I got it in my hand a thrill of joy ran through me, for then I knew I had discovered spotted eggs of the Blue Grosbeak.

Yes, there was no mistaking that nest. Everything, even to the traditional snake skin, was there (which, by the by, is strongly characteristic of them, as I have never yet found a nest that *did not contain it*). But to be on the safe side and make identity certain I waited, and very soon the *chuck*, *chuck* of the female was heard as she flew around the spot. She soon disappeared, only to return accompanied by the male. I watched them some time, being satisfied that I had found something I had never heard of before.

Two of the remaining three eggs are very thinly dotted with minute spots of red, while the third is marked very *distinctly* with *good-sized spots* of a reddish chestnut, and some few spots of subdued lilac (such as you will find in specimens of the Least Tern.) The large end is *very thickly marked*, while the small end has only two red spots (I thought at first that the markings were accidental, but upon washing I find they still remain), so taking them altogether they are very handsome, and as a set I prize them very much.

The eggs of this set measure .87 x .63, .82 x .62, and .82 x .62, which is almost the usual size, although some will measure .90 x .63, and I have one in a set of three that is only .75 x .58, and is the smallest I ever saw.

Now while this species is not common, it is very evenly distributed and particular, and this past season I have taken eleven sets of ee eggs, four of four eggs, and several of

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Nesting of the Blue Grosbeak in 1888 and 1889 at Raleigh, N. C.

1888. May 18th. Found a nest just finished, five feet high in a pine. On May 22d it had two eggs in it, and on May 24th the eggs were gone. This is the only instance of this bird building in a pine that has come under my personal observation.

June 2d. Found another nest three feet high in alders, alongside of a lane, and on June 8th I took a set of three fresh eggs. The bottom and outside of the nest were composed of weed stems, dead leaves, pine straw and paper, inside of fine grass and lined with horsehair—the nest being placed in an alder fork, the sides of the nest were attached to the fork by cobwebs, the whole being quite a compact structure. This description will do for the majority of nests found here, although the bird often uses cotton as well in building her nest.

1889. June 3. Took a set of three eggs (after leaving them for three days) from a nest similar to above, placed in a sweet gum fork five and a half feet high. The nest contained some cotton.

June 10. Took a slightly incubated set of four from a nest in a mulberry fork four feet high. Bird on nest.

June 12. My brother took a slightly incubated set of four from a nest five feet high in a sweet gum sapling. This nest was a loose structure much like a Chat's, but was attached to the fork with cobwebs, which a Chat's never is; some snakeskin gave tone to the architecture of this nest.

June 20. Took a set of three from a nest four and a half feet high in a mulberry fork. This nest was of the usual compact type, but had a good deal of snakeskin in the bottom of the nest.

June 20. A colored man brought us a set of three and nest of this bird, which he said had been built in a grape vine in a neighboring vineyard. The young Grosbeaks had already chipped the eggs in their efforts to enjoy the free air of heaven, and this detracted from their usefulness. The nest was rather a small one very largely composed of roots, but had the unmistakable Blue Grosbeak look about it.

The Blue Grosbeak usually builds in an isolated bush or sapling, and the nest seems to be always under six feet in height. The set of eggs is three or four in this locality, and apparently the smaller number is as frequent as the larger.

C. S. Brimley.

Raleigh, N. C.

O.&O. XV. Feb. 1890 p. 22

Spotted Eggs of the Blue Grosbeak.

BY T. D. PERRY, SAVANNAH, GA.

This retired but beautiful species (*Guiraca cœrulia*) has been written upon so often that it seems like trespassing upon the brother readers of the O. AND O. by afflicting them with it again, but the past season of 1887 has been one of successful events with me, and one in which so many new phases of bird life have been discovered, that I cannot refrain from two eggs, more than I ever took in any two seasons combined.

They arrive amongst us here about the 20th of April, commencing to lay early in May, as I have found sets of them on May 10th, and fresh eggs as late as July 7th, leaving little doubt in my mind but that they rear two broods during the season. I have never heard them sing, and if they do it must be at rare intervals. The only note I have ever heard is *chuck, chuck.* Three eggs as a general thing is their usual number with us, and now and then sets of four.

They seem to prefer pine saplings to all other places, but you will find them in oaks, myrtle, bay and blackberry vines, at varying heights from two to six feet from the ground. The nests are very compact, and always composed of the same material. All eggs that I have ever found before were pale blue, fading somewhat after being blown, all but the set, referred to above, found this season; which scores another point, and a remarkable one, for 1887.

O.&O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 153-154

The Whippoorwill at Raleigh, N. C.

BY C. S. BRIMLEY.

A few particulars concerning our past year's experience with this bird may be of some interest to some of the readers of the O. AND O., and as an introduction I will first give a few data concerning the species:

The Whippoorwill arrives here about the 18th of April with tolerable uniformity, and from that time till the end of May its notes may be nightly heard by all who are near enough to its favorite haunts. From June on it is seldom heard and I cannot give the time of its leaving us but we have on one occasion taken it as late as October 10th. While here it seems to frequent the higher and dryer woods, and it is only in such localities there is any chance of finding it. This year it was first observed on April 18th; five days afterwards I was following some Towhees in a strip of woods on a rocky ridge running north, when a bird that at first I took to be an unusually large Towhee flew up almost from under my feet. I soon, however, recognized him as a Whippoorwill, and seeing him settle within easy shot I straightway collected him.

On May 5th my brother was collecting in a patch of woods on the same ridge, when a pair of Whippoorwills flew up almost from under his feet; he immediately collected one and then started to look for eggs. His search was soon crowned with success, for within a few feet of

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C. S. Brimley.

Raleigh, N. C.

O.&O. XV. Feb. 1890 p. 22

The Blue Grosbeak, (*Guiraca cærulea.*)

This beautiful bird, although widely distributed in the United States in the breeding season, is nowhere abundant. Perhaps it is as common as anywhere along the sparsely wooded streams and ravines in Central Kansas. For the benefit of those who have not had opportunities to study its habits in the field, I desire briefly to review my notes of this species made during the past three years.

Previous to 1881, I had observed the Blue Grosbeak only during the Spring migration, and did not really know that it was resident here. In June of that year, I found my first nest of the species. It was built in a peach tree in an orchard; was about six feet from the ground and contained two eggs with two Cowbird's eggs. The four eggs, being alike in size and shape, but so different in color, presented a pleasing contrast. When found, the nest was occupied by the female; but as I was not familiar with the species I failed to recognize the bird in the approaching twilight. The eggs, except for the size, resembled those of the Indigo Bunting. As I was three or four miles from home, I took the set, hoping to be able to identify them by my future observations. It did not take much research to satisfy me fully as to their identity.

Having now become satisfied that the species nested in this locality, I kept a sharp lookout for their nests in 1882, The males arrived about the middle of May, but I saw no females until about the first of June. On June 12th, I found a nest containing two eggs. It was built almost entirely of bits of newspaper, old letters, etc., with a few weeds; and had a lining of grass roots, taken from the surface of plowed fields. It was built in a small wild plum bush, about three feet from the ground. The nest was near a dwelling house. I left it for the full set; but upon visiting it a few days later, I found only the scattered materials of the nest and a few bits of scattered egg shells. About this time a female (I have not yet seen the male assist in house-building,) built a nest about twenty feet from a dwelling near town. This nest was in the lower branches of a cotton-wood, six feet up. I watched it for about ten days, but the bird deserted it without laying. This nest, too, was built largely of newspapers.

The failure of the previous year made me still more anxious to succeed in 1883. My earliest record of the arrival of the males is on the fourth of May. On June 4th, I saw a female carrying material for nesting; and after carefully concealing myself, I was rewarded by finding the partially built nest, well hidden in tangled underbrush near the Kansas River. It was built upon the lower horizontal limb of a box-alder, two feet from the ground. On June 8th, the bird laid the first egg, but a day or two later a tornado wrecked this nest, with, perhaps, hundreds of others in its path. On June 15th, found a nest of three eggs, about half incubated. This nest was in a ravine in low bushes, and had escaped the fury of the storm. June 21st, found a set of four fresh eggs; June 23d, a set of three; and July 4th, a set of four, all fresh. About this time three nests were found by another local collector. Two of these contained three eggs, and the third, two of the Grosbeak's and one of the Cowbird's. I obtained two of these sets by exchange. It was now too late in the season to secure other sets; but afterward, knowing its habits, I found many deserted nests. Even during the past two months, in my hunting excursions, I have been able, from my knowledge of the construc-

Young Oologist. 1538. *Blue Grosbeak.* By T. D. Perry. *Ibid.*, p. 107. **Auk**, V11. Jan. 1890. p. 82

Sunny So. Oologist. 1492. *The Blue Grosbeak.* By J. A. Singley. *Ibid.*, p. 9.—Nesting habits. **Auk**, V11. Jan. 1890. p. 80

No. Eggs in Set - C, S. Brimley

Blue Grosbeak. I used to think four was the standard set, but three is quite as often the full complement.

O, & O, 15, Oct, 1890, p, 146

The Blue Grosbeak.

(GUIRACA CÆRULEA).

BY C. S. BRIMLEY, RALEIGH, N. C.

This beautiful bird is not at all common in this locality, but its habits and color render it much better known than many far commoner birds, so well known in fact, as to gain for it the local name of Big Indigo, by which it is commonly called around Raleigh.

It arrives here in the latter end of April, (April 26th to May 4th), and leaves a little before the middle of September (September 11th to 17th).

While here it usually frequents grain and grass fields, especially in the neighborhood of isolated thickets, and is also found in orchards; but it never seems to frequent lowland thickets or meadows, and I have never observed it in the woods, though it may sometimes be found on the edges of the latter if the locality is suitable.

In the beginning of June the Blue Grosbeak builds his nest in some convenient bush or small tree, usually at the height of from four to five feet. In the construction thereof he uses chiefly dead grass and weeds, but usually adds some cotton lint and pieces of newspaper to give tone and dignity to his dwelling, also perhaps to help distinguish it from that of his more plebeian little cousin, the Indigo, who sometimes builds quite as large a nest, but does not seem addicted to the use of cotton and newspaper as building material. When the nest is finished, it gets still further ornamented after a few days by four pale blue delicate looking eggs, which very much resemble those of the Indigo except in size. (The measurement of the only one in my possession just now is .88 by .66). The color, however, fades on keeping, and they lose the delicate, almost transparent look of the new-blown egg, becoming white and opaque.

The Blue Grosbeak is a very fair singer; his song somewhat resembling that of the Indigo, but, to my ear, more liquid as well as greater in volume. He does not as a rule, however, put in much time on singing, usually contenting himself with a clear, metalic "chip," which both sexes and the young utter when disturbed, but also as a call note when two or more are together.

With regard to singing, however, it is greatly a matter of individual birds. Last year I only heard the song once; this year, one has sung daily within hearing of our house for the last two or three weeks, and I shot another while singing about a week ago.

The plumage of this bird is bright blue, in the male, with the wings, tail and the feathers round the bill black, and wing with chestnut wing bars. Males in full plumage, however, are rather scarce; the blue of the under parts often being more or less mixed or replaced by white, and there is often a good deal of brown on the back; the head, however, is always bright blue. The female is olive brown, more yellowish below, wing bars somewhat paler than in the male, the second one sometimes whitish. The tail in both sexes has the two outer tail feathers slightly tipped with white or whitish. Young of the year are like the female both in size and color.

Measurements are as follows: male, L. 6.70, W. 3.38, T. 2.70, E. 10.75; female, a young of the year, L. 6.50, W. 3.19, T. 2.51, E. 10.54.

O.&O. ~~XII. Jun. 1887 p.~~ 92-93.

First Plumages -- Brewster.

Contrary to the generalization I have made under Coturniculus henslowi, Goniaphea cærulea, is, according to Ridgway, entirely unmaculate beneath.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan 1879, . 46.

O.&O. IX. Feb. 1884. p.

20 ORNITH

tion of the nests, to mark many localities where they may be sought next season.

The Blue Grosbeak is a restless, wide-awake bird. It feeds and gathers nesting material far from its nest. This increases the difficulty of finding its abode. When disturbed it utters a single scolding note, sharp and distinct, repeated at short intervals. Only twice have I heard the male in full song. The notes, except in volume, are an exact reproduction of those of the Indigo Bunting, which it so closely resembles. The nests are rather bulky affairs, and, except in the varieties of material used. are quite characteristic. In the outer part it seems to select whatever material suits its fancy; paper, weeds, strings, bits of cotton or wool are often used. One nest was more than half composed of the cast-off skins of snakes; several had bits of the same material. The lining is always composed of dry grass roots, with some times a few long horse hairs. The eggs are of a pale blue color—which fades on exposure to light. They are about as large as the eggs of the common Bluebird, but vary much in length. The ends, too, are nearly equally rounded.—*D. E. L., Manhattan, Kan.*

Passerina cyanea

Passerina cyanea

1889

May Dedham 12 1♂ (Worthington) – Wm. 14 1♂ ✻ – Cg. 23 1♂ ✻ – B. 25 5♂ ✻ (Dwight). B. 30 4♂ ✻ 1♀ – 1889.

1889 Melrose H. May 13 1✻ (Torrey)

June G. 3 2♂ ✻ – Wm. 4 3♂ ✻ – W. 8 1♂ ✻ – W. 20 2♂ ✻ 1889. Bd. 1 1✻ – B. 5 2✻ – B. 8 2✻ – B. 12 4✻ – Swampscott 13 1✻ – 14 15✻ – 1890

July B. 17 1✻. 1889. Milton 8 3✻ 1894

Aug B. 9 1 ad ♂ – B. 11 1 ad ♂ ✻ – Cg. 26 1 (brown pl.) – 1889.

May a. 14 1♂ ✻ Fox. Wm. 1✻ Bm. 1✻ 19 – B. 29 2♂ ✻ 1890. 16 4✻ (Fox). B. 28 3♂ ✻ – Cg. 30 1✻ 1891. Concord 28 1✻ 1892 Concord 12 1✻ 24 1✻ (Pine Hill) 1899. 99

" 20 1✻ – 24 ♂ – [Wm. 24 (♂♀)] 25 1✻ – Concord. 1893.

" Cg. 8 ♂ ad (very bright) 12 1✻ (Fox.) 13 1✻ do. E. Fox. 16 1✻ Cdn 19 1✻ 1894

a. 9 1✻ (Fox) a. 10 2 (Fox) Milton Hill 14 1✻ 1895

June Cg. 4 ♂ ✻ + ♀ – 1891. 9 3✻ – 19 1✻ – Concord 1892 Carlisle & Estabrook road, Cd. 10 5✻ 11 5✻ 12 4✻ 14 2✻ 25 2✻ 1899

Concord 27 ♀ + nest 3 eggs 1 chick 28 ♀ + nest 2 eggs 2 chicks – 30 ♂ ✻ nest 2 eggs 2 chicks 1893.

Milton 20 2✻ 1897 Mason field 5 1✻ Mrs Bemis 23 1✻ 1898

Sept. Bd. 14 1 (brown) – 1890 7 1 juv. (white pines near cornfield) 13 1 – 16 (cornfield) 28 1✻ (Cornfield at sunset) Concord 1892

2 1 (cornfield) 3 1 – 6 (wild rice). 9 2 do. 16 1 do. Concord. 1893.

Oct

July 6 1✻ – 10 1✻ – 11 1✻ – 14 1✻ (Balls H.) 21 1✻ – 22 1✻ – 24 1✻ – 26 1✻ – Concord 1892

1 1✻ – 3 1✻. 15 1 – 17 2✻ (1✻) 19 3✻ – 24 1✻ – 27 1✻ (twice at sunset) 29 1✻ once at sunset. 30 3✻ (full song at midday) Concord. 1893.

Arnold Arboretum Milton 17 ♂ ad ✻ 22 ♂ ✻ ♀. 1894

August 4 1✻ 5 1✻ 22 (cornfield) 24 2 (do) 31 1 (do) Concord 1892

2 1 (✻) – 4 2✻ – 6 1✻ – 7 1✻ – 8 1✻ (full song) 14 (wild rice) 16 1 do. 19 2 do. 26 ③ (cornfield) 27 1 do. 30 1 do. – 31 1 do. Concord. 1893.

P. cyanea

Cyanospiza cyanea

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 23 Cambridge.- A ♂ flew into a cherry tree in my garden, sang three times, then took a long flight out of sight and hearing. I have not seen or heard one on the old place for several years before

In my garden.

" 25 Belmont. Spelman and Dwight saw five different males in the Prospect St. region.

5 ♂ at Belmont.

" 29 Watertown.- Saw no less than eight, four of each sex, three pairs and a single ♂ and ♀. Found one nest containing a single egg. The ♀ watched it jealously, chirping anxiously while I was in the vicinity and going to it as soon as I withdrew. She was not at all shy or retiring. The ♂ was singing steadily in the top of a large white oak not 50 yds. away. This nest was in the fork of a wild cherry about 2 ft. above the ground in a cluster of young wild cherry sprouts in an opening in the woods. It was below the foliage and so little concealed that I saw it almost immediately from a distance of 20 yds. or more. The ♀ of another pair showed equal anxiety chirping sharply & incessantly while I was searching the thicket (of birch, oak and maple sprouts where the trees had been cut away) but I could find no nest. After I withdrew she appeared with a bill full of wool and plunged into the bushes her mate following her closely & occasionally uttering a low zee-e-e. She was shy and suspicious of me. I did not look further for this nest. There was a bachelor ♂ about who pestered this pair and enraged the legitimate husband by trying to win the ♀ away from him. They were incessantly fighting & sang frequently within 25 yds. of one another. All the males heard to-day were poor singers and ~~the~~ all were in immature plumage those with the feeblest voices being the most mottled with grayish & brown.

Abundant in Watertown

Nest 1 egg.

♀ building

Song of immature ♂ feeble.

Cyanospiza cyanea

1889 Mass.

May 29 Watertown. A ♂ sang on wing in the presence of the ♀, the time about noon, the day clear & cool. He started from the top of a tall tree and slanted down over an open field flapping his wings slowly and in a loose, butterfly-like way maintaining a perfectly non-undulatory course. His song was of nearly double the usual length but save for an exceptional tenderness of tone and the addition of a few low warbling notes at the end it was not peculiar in any other respect.

Singing on wing

June 4 Watertown. – Visited the same birds seen on the 29th ult. The ♀ of nest on French's Hill sitting on 4 eggs (she had 3 on the 31st ult.) Sat rather high with head raised above rim of nest, her large dark eye conspicuous. Flew at 10 paces & immediately began chirping sharply hopping about in the bushes near me not trying to conceal herself. ♂ neither seen nor heard. Also found the nest of the pair seen building on the 29th ult. It was in a bushy red-oak shrub about 2 ft. above the ground in a thicket of dense sprouts just outside the woods on the edge of an opening & visible several yards away. ♀ sitting on one egg. She allowed me to almost touch her tail, then slipped off and disappeared without making any outcry. One of the eggs in the set of four taken to-day is faintly but distinctly spotted in a wreath-pattern about the larger end

Behavior of nesting birds.

Spotted egg

" 8 Watertown. The nest building (doubtless only just begun as I examined every bush in the thicket without finding it on my first visit) May 29 and containing one egg June 4th held to-day three eggs and one of Molothrus. The Indigo Bird's eggs were all spotted. They were slightly incubated the embryos only just forming. The ♀ sat closely & when started began chirping loudly and incessantly. She was very anxious & bold coming within ten yards of me. Although I remained about the place fifteen minutes or more the ♂ did not appear. It was cloudy & raining at the time

Spotted eggs

Boldness of ♀ parent.

Copied from Journal.

Massachusetts. Passerina cyanea.

1892.

Aug. 24 Concord. Indigo Birds are now frequenting the corn fields as is their habit at this season + through September, I heard one in Benson's field on the 22nd and there were two in a corn field near Hunts' landing today. The note of the young Indigo Bird lacks the hard quality of that of the adult and is so very like the whit of Empidonax minimus that I find it difficult to distinguish between the two species unless the bird is very near me. One of those seen today was an old male still in the blue plumage.

Passerina cyanea.

Concord, Mass. Flight Song.

1893. July 3. While walking along the Estabrook road this evening after sunset I saw an Indigo Bird mount into the air over an open field and sing on wing. A few low stuttering notes were prefixed to the usual song which was delivered as the bird was rising and ended when it had attained a height of about 40 ft. It then closed its wings and shot down a steep incline into some bushes on the edge of the field. I do not recall seeing ~~seeing~~ this species sing on wing before.

Passerina cyanea.

Concord, Mass. More in July than June.

1893. There was an Indigo Bird singing on Ball's Hill this afternoon (the first that I have ever heard there) and another

July 19. near Hunt's landing on the river bank. Thus I heard three in all to-day. It is singular that I find so many more about Concord at this season than in June. Can it be that there is really an increase in the number of old birds or do they merely come to the neighborhood of the rivers from the remoter fields and pastures? They are in full song now at all hours. Can they be "second brooded"? I have never seen any proof of it but this midsummer singing is suspicious to say the least.

Aug.16. Eat wild rice.

Indigo Birds feed much at this season on wild rice. I frequently see or hear them in the belts of this grain along the margin of the river.

Passerina cyanea.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898.

July 5
to
Aug.15.

Abundant, frequenting chiefly thickets of low bushes along the stone walls, roadsides and the border of woods. The males frequently perched and sang on the telegraph wires along the road to the village. They continued in full song up to August 8th (later than any other bird found here) but after the close of July their songs, although losing nothing in vigor and sweetness, were heard less frequently and chiefly in the early morning or at evening. My full record is :- July 6$\overset{2}{\times}$, 7$\overset{3}{\times}$, 8$\overset{2}{\times}$, 9$\overset{4}{\times}$, 10$\overset{2}{\times}$, 11$\overset{1}{\times}$, 12$\overset{1}{\times}$, 18$\overset{2}{\times}$, 19$\overset{2}{\times}$, 20$\overset{2}{\times}$, 21$\overset{1}{\times}$, 24$\overset{2}{\times}$, 28$\overset{2}{\times}$, 30$\overset{1}{\times}$, 31$\overset{2}{\times}$, August 1$\overset{1}{\times}$, 2$\overset{1}{\times}$, 3$\overset{1}{\times}$, 4$\overset{1}{\times}$, 5$\overset{1}{\times}$, 6$\overset{1}{\times}$, 7$\overset{1}{\times}$, 8$\overset{1}{\times}$(sang only once at sunrise), 10$\overset{1}{\otimes}$(sang once, briefly and feebly, at sunrise), 12$\overset{1}{\times}$(full song once 2 P.M.), 14$\overset{1}{\times}$, 15$\overset{1}{\times}$, 17$\overset{1}{\times}$(once, 10A.M.)

The song of the Indigo Bird, like that of the Phoebe, has a peculiar quality of harsh sweetness (metallic sweetness would be perhaps a better term in the case of the Indigo). At its best it is one of the sweetest as well as most technically perfect songs that I know. The fine singers seem to have studied their themes with the greatest care for every note is distinctly enunciated and nicely inflected yet there is no trace of effort or self-consciousness in the smoothly flowing yet intricate strain. The inferior singers, however, stutter and hesitate distressingly. I have observed that they are usually in immature (i.e. brown-mottled) plumage. The Indigo

Passerina cyanea.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Bird sings more freely in intensely hot weather than does any
July 5 other of our birds. I saw broods of young Indigo Birds on
to
Aug.15. wing as early as July 12th. They were always accompanied by
(No.2). both parents.

Birds of Southern New Brunswick.
M. Chamberlain.

10. **Passerina cyanea.** Indigo Bunting.—There is a skin in the collection of James McGivern, Esq., said to have been taken about six miles north of St. John in June, 1880. I can learn of no other occurrence of this bird near here, though I have frequently seen specimens taken on the western, or Bay of Fundy shore of Nova Scotia.

Bull. N.O.C. 7, April, 1882. p. 105

New Brunswick Notes ... Chamberlain.

When I included the Indigo Bird in my catalogue of the Birds of New Brunswick I had some misgivings as to its right to a place there; but that right has been established by an example taken at Rothesay by Mr. Henry Gilbert, in May last, and by others observed by Mr. Gould.

Bull. N.O.C. 8. Jan. 1883. p. 9

Addendum to list of Birds known to Occur within Ten miles of Point de Monts, Quebec, Canada. Notes of N. A. Comeau, Taken at Godbout.

167. **Passerina cyanea.** Shot June 8, 1884.

C. Hart Merriam
Locust Grove, N. Y.

Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 295

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Aug. 1, Indigo Bird.

O. & O. XI. Mar. 1886. p. 44

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Indigo Bird, scarce. Shot an adult male.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 75

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

598. Indigo Bird. Occasional.

O. & O. XV. June. 1890, p. 88

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907. p. 81.

222. **Cyanospiza cyanea.** Indigo Bunting.—Regular, though not very common, summer resident, May 18 to August 4, and probably later; breeds.

Summer Residents on Southwest
Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

598. Indigo Bunting. Rather common at Boothbay. Saw a beautiful ♂ at Camden.

Q. and O. 15, Nov. 1890. p. 162

Notes from Maine.
John L. Goodale. Saco, Me.

I also got last summer two sets of Indigo Buntings — one with three, the other with four eggs –

O. & O. Vol. 18, Sept. 1893 p. 129

Cyanospiza cyanea. Aug. 13 ♂ sings. Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Cyanospiza cyanea. – near Bethel, Me. 1871.

Wolfeboro', N. H. June. 13-1889.
Cyanospiza cyanea 1 ♂ singing in bushes, pasture

Shelburne, N. H.

Cyanospiza cyanea

1884

July Rather common about wayside thickets and in pastures grown up to sweet fern. It sang freely up to July 20 and I heard one as late as the 29th.

Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24 1885.
122. Cyanospiza cyanea – several singing!

[illegible], N.H.

1894. Passerina cyanea

June 14 * (7 a pair) 20 * - 26 * 22 * 23 * [illegible]

24 * [illegible]

[illegible]

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. Passerina cyanea

May

29 * 30 * [illegible]

June 1 * [illegible]

5 * [illegible]

[illegible]

N. H. (Franconia)

Cyanospiza cyanea

1888

Late occurrence.

Oct. 1 "I got an Indigo Bird in Franconia on the first day of Oct. last. Isn't it a late date for such a northern locality" (W. Faxon, letter Nov. 6 - 88.)

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.
July 21 - Aug. 11, 1883. F.H.Allen

Passerina cyanea.—Very abundant.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p.78

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

43. Passerina cyanea. INDIGO BUNTING.—Abundant.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.152

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

36. Passerina cyanea. INDIGO-BIRD.—Very abundant.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.150

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N.H. July-August, 1874. J.A.Allen

30. Passerina cyanea. Rather common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Birds Obs. at **Bridgewater**, N.H.
July 12 - Sept. 4, 1883. F.H.Allen

Passerina cyanea.—Very common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p.77

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N.H. June 27, '92
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N.H.

Indigo Bunting, one pair observed on the way to camp.

O.& O Vol.17, Sept.1892 p.136

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

47. **Cyanospiza cyanea.** Indigo Bird. — Observed a few times in Stowe Valley; said to be not uncommon.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p.343

74. Cyanospiza cyanea.– June 16 ♂ E. Mass. 1885.

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-4 1885

23. Cyanospiza cyanea. abundant in full song everywhere.

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 15-1886.

32. Cyanospiza cyanea Pairs common, about 10

Mass. (*near Concord*).

1887
May $26^{3♂*}$ - 31^{3}
June $12^{2♂*}$
July 8^{6*} - 23^{5*} - 24^{4*} - 25^{2*} - 26^{2*} - 31^{1*}
Aug. 10^{1*} - $15^{4 \text{ young}}$

* singing

Cyanospiza cyanea
Mass (Winchendon)

1887
June $25^{10♂}$ - $26^{10♂}$

Cyanospiza cyanea.
Mass (Hyannis) Late autumn occurrence on the coast

1887
Oct. 15. A young bird shot by H. W. Henshaw in a patch of weeds on Great Island. It was in company with Sparrows.

Cyanospiza cyanea.

Cyanospiza 15^{1*} - 18^{4} Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

47. Passerina cyanea.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Cy, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

44. Passerina cyanea. INDIGO-BIRD.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 45

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

39. Passerina cyanea. INDIGOBIRD.—Common in the more open country. Seen in the clearing on the summit of Graylock.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 101

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Passerina cyanea (Linn.), Indigo Bunting. Summer resident, not common. Doubtless breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Cyanospiza cyanea

West Townsend, Ashby, Mt. Watatic--- One of the commonest and most generally distributed birds in this region, found almost everywhere where there were bushy pastures or thickets along the roadsides; observed on Mt. Watatic to the elevation of about 800 feet.

Distribution of New England Birds.-
A Reply to Dr. Brewer. H. A. Purdie.

I had no idea that any one acquainted at all with New England birds could say that *C. passerinus* was rare, or even uncommon, in Southern New England. Why, it absolutely swarms, so to speak, on Nantucket. I presume Dr. Brewer will allow that island to be included within our limits. On Cape Cod, and, indeed, in various portions of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, and even northward to Concord, New Hampshire, it may be found in plenty at all suitable localities. At Saybrook, Conn., its notes were to be heard in every field. (See History North American Birds, Vol. I, p. 554, and local lists of New England birds, south of Northern sections, in confirmation of this statement.

Bull. N.O.C. 2, Jan., 1877. p. 17.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Passerina cyanea

June $3\frac{3}{x}$ $4\frac{3}{x}$ Fairfield
" $13\frac{1}{x}$ Saybrook
" $21\frac{3}{x}$ Vernon. Vernon
" $22\frac{1}{x}$ $23\frac{3}{-}$ $24\frac{5}{x}$ $25\frac{4}{x}$ Andover

Common about Fairfield and Andover. Only one noted at Saybrook where, according to Clark, the species is always rare in May & June but in midsummer, when the "blackbird oats" (*Zizania*) are beginning to ripen, becomes common and *regularly breeds*. He has repeatedly taken nests with fresh eggs in July & August but none earlier. He finds the birds feeding on the *Zizania* & thinks that it furnishes their chief food. This is a strange story but Mr. Clark was very positive about it.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C. H. Merriam.

77. **Passerina cyanea** (*Linn.*) *Gray.* INDIGO BUNTING.—Found breeding about the foot-hills.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct. 1881, p. 230

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886. Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 17, *Passerina cyanea*, (598). Indigo Bunting.

O. & O. XI. Aug. 1886. p. 125

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

248. Indigo Bunting. Common in the summer. Found along the country road.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 83

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axton], New York [1901]
May 20 to 25.

Indigo Bunting. Not common.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 299.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

74. Cyanospiza cyanea.

First plumage: female. Above dark reddish-brown, slightly tinged with olive, a few of the feathers upon the interscapular region with very obscure dusky central markings. Beneath pale reddish-brown, deepest upon the abdominal and anal regions; streaked distinctly on the sides and across the breast with dusky brown. From a specimen in my cabinet collected at Cambridge, Mass., July 15, 1872.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, July, 1878. p. 122.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

Mr. S. Palmer of Ipswich informs me that he has an albino Indigo-Bird.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.29

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Passerina cyanea. INDIGO-BIRD.

The Indigo-bird sings faithfully through the midsummer; but the silencing influence that begins to overtake the birds at this time, reaches it about the end of July, and it is soon quieted. The last days of singing are between the end of July and mid-August; my records giving August 15 and 16 as dates of latest songs.

I have ever found this bird uncommon in the fall, and my scant data respecting its singing in that season are comprehended between the last two weeks of September.

The song-flight of the Indigo-bird I have but once witnessed —on September 23, 1879.

Regarding the singing of the Indigo-bird, Mr. Fred. T. Jencks, of Providence, writes me that he is able to distinguish by their songs the younger from the fully adult birds at a distance of at least one hundred and fifty yards. The songs of younger birds are more simple and less musical than those of adults. I am myself familiar with differences in the songs of Indigo-birds such as Mr. Jencks describes, but never traced them to their cause.

Auk, 2, April, 1885. p. 151-152.

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of these phenomena I had seen. While out in a field, I heard, far above my head, the familiar notes of our little Indigo Bunting. Looking up I discovered him, a mere speck, sailing and singing away at that height as though in raptures.

I had never seen this before, and was much struck with it, for it certainly was pleasing and a subject worthy of study, alone in the questions — what birds sing on the wing? and what prompts it? besides the many other speculations which it will present to a lover of nature. Since I have several times seen this aerial flight of *P. cyanea*, accompanied with song. The Indigo Bunting always selects the top of some tree near his nest as his special singing site; and there his charming notes may be heard at almost any time of day. Strange, though seldom, is that inspiration which carries this modest little creature to sing high up in the air, as though the earth were no longer worthy of its presence.

Having observed this in the Indigo Finch, I was led to look for similar characteristics in other birds. I found that the Blue Grosbeak, Mocking-bird, and some of the Vireos all give us "music in the air." The Mocking-bird has a queer way while singing of flying straight up for about twenty feet in the air, then dropping down on the same branch in a flood of song.

With the exception of the Mocking-bird, none of our true Thrushes sing while flying, though all of them give cries of distress and anger in the air. O&O. vol XVIII No 10 Oct. 1893. (Harry Aylett.)

June 16th I found the nest of an Indigo Bird containing four eggs. The bird that was on the nest looked like a Field Sparrow, so I shot it and it proved to be a male Field Sparrow. I saw only a female Indigo Bird.

nesting notes from Connecticut

J. L. Goff. Gildersleeve, Conn.

O. & O. VIII. Oct. 1883. p. 78

Notes on Nests of the Indigo Bird and Towhee Bunting.

BY W. E. H., FAIRVIEW, W. VA., (PANHANDLE).

On the 18th of August, 1883, the writer found in a mass of Blackberry briers on the border of a wood, within a radius of nine feet, two nests, one that of the Towhee Bunting and the other of the Indigo Bird, each not less than three feet from the ground, and containing 3 and 4 fresh eggs respectively. In connection with this circumstance the writer deems three things as noteworthy. First, the close proximity of said nests. Rarely, if ever, has he found nests of different species within so short a distance of each other and occupied simultaneously, although it may occur oftener than his own observations would indicate. It would, perhaps, be a matter of interest were correspondents of the "O. and O." to note instances of this.

A second feature of interest was the lateness of the season of the occurrence of said nests. It is generally supposed the Indigo Bird, like the Scarlet Tanager, is quite sensitive to the frosts of our northern climates, and observations in this latitude pretty generally agree, that, as it is among the latest of Spring arrivals, it is among the first to take its departure in the Fall. The finding therefore, of a nest of this bird, with freshly laid eggs, after the middle of August, the writer believes to be, at least, quite extraordinary.

A third interesting fact in connection with the above was the elevation of the Towhee's nest from the ground. Several years ago, writers noted exceptions to the ground building habit of this bird, and quite recently a number of correspondents of the "O and O" have reported instances, as coming under their own observation, of its nesting in a bush or low sappling, some feet from the ground. And yet there are reputable writers who still persist in saying "the Towhee Bunting *always* builds its nest on the ground," e. g., Dr. Abbott in his recently published "Rambles of a Naturalist about Home," page 141. One "O. and O." correspondent called attention to the interesting fact that every reported instance of this bird's departure from its usual practice of nesting on the ground, as he believed, uniformly occurred during the latter half of the breeding season, which agrees with the case in question. His theory, however, in explanation, viz.: the Summer foliage contributed to form a bed for the nest, would hardly hold good in this case, my notes minutely describing the nest as "attached to a bunch of four or five upright *dead* Blackberry stalks, partially shaded by taller Elderberry bushes."

O. & O. X. Mar. 1885. p. 44.

This season I have taken two sets of Indigo Bunting's, (*Passerina cyanea*), eggs, one of three, the other of four, in each of which two eggs are marked with pale brown and lavender spots. C. O. Tracy

Notes from Taftsville, Vt.

O. & O. IX. Sept. 1884. p. 109

Nests in which Cowbird's eggs have been found C. C. Poling

7. *Passerina cyanea.* Indigo Bunting. On two occasions I have found the Cowbird's egg in this bird's nest. In neither case was the nest deserted.

O. & O. XIV. Sept. 1889 p 133

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt. Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). One nest of this species, which I found on May 30th, contained four eggs. The nest, which was situated in a low, swampy place, was hung to the tall brakes, and was a much more neatly constructed affair than the bird usually builds. It was not as bulky as their nests usually are, and was built more after the style of a Vireo.

O. & O. XIV. Oct. 1889 p 150

Nomenclature of North American Birds, Elliott Coues.

199. **Passerina cyanea** (*L.*) *Gray.* The genus *Cyanospiza*, Bd., 1858, is given in Gray's Hand-list, II, p. 97, as synonymous with *Passerina*, Vieill., 1816. This is correct. The type of *Passerina*, Vieill., as given in the Analyse, 1816, p. 30, is "Le Ministre" of Buffon. On turning to Buffon, Hist. Nat. Ois., 4to ed., Vol. IV, 1778, p. 86, we find "Le Ministre" described by Montbrillard at second hand, the references being to Brisson and Catesby. Looking up Brisson, III, 1760, p. 13, we see that "Le Ministre" is his "Tangara bleu de la Caroline," *Tangara carolinensis cœrulea*, also described at second hand, the reference being to Catesby. Finally, consulting Catesby, I, p. 45, pl. 45, we find that he describes and figures a "Blue Linnet," which is the "Indigo Bird," *Cyanospiza cyanea*, Bd. It is true that Vieillot later expanded his genus (in the Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.) to cover a miscellaneous assortment of *Fringillidæ* and *Icteridæ*, but this does not affect his original establishment of the genus upon the Indigo Bird. It is also a fact that there is a prior *Passerina* in botany; but this does not preclude its use in zoölogy.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 96

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463. *The Indigo Bird.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV, p. 394.—Not uncommon at Webster City, Iowa. Amer. Naturalist.

48. *The Indigo Finch.* By C. W. Gedney. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 159.—Mainly relating to its life in aviaries and cages. Fam. Sci. & Fanc. Jour.

468. *Brief Notes on Some Iowa Birds.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV, pp. 654-656.—On the Indigo Bird, Robin, and Blue Jay. Amer. Naturalist.

Auk, XV, Oct., 1898, pp.319-324.

New Species, etc., of American Birds.
11. Fringillidae (continued).
By Robert Ridgway.

Passerina vs. Cyanospiza.

In the 'Bulletin' of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, Vol. V, 1880, p. 96, Dr. Coues formally sets up the name *Passerina* Vieillot, in place of *Cyanospiza* Baird, and gives the following reasons for doing so: "The genus *Cyanospiza* Bd., 1858, is given in Gray's Hand-list, II, p. 97, as synonymous with *Passerina* Vieill., 1816. This is correct. The type of *Passerina* Vieill. as given in the

not *Emberiza nivalis*, proposes for the latter the generic name *Plectrophenax*.

The type of *Passerina* Vieill., therefore, is, "by elimination," *Emberiza nivalis* and not *Tanagra cyanea*. If this view of the case is correct, we shall have to restore the unusually appropriate name *Cyanospiza* for the Indigo Bird and its congeners, and use *Passerina* for the Snowflakes, the recognized forms of the two genera being as follows:

CYANOSPIZA *Baird.*

1. Cyanospiza cyanea (*Linn.*) *Baird.*
2. Cyanospiza amœna (*Say*) *Baird.*
3. Cyanospiza ciris (*Linn.*) *Baird.*
4. Cyanospiza leclancheri (*Lafr.*) *Dugès.*
5. Cyanospiza versicolor (*Bonap.*) *Baird.*
6. Cyanospiza versicolor pulchra (*Ridgw.*) *Ridgw.*
7. Cyanospiza rositæ *Lawr.*

PASSERINA *Vieillot.*

1. Passerina nivalis (*Linn.*) *Vieill.*[1]
2. Passerina nivalis townsendi (*Ridgw.*) *Ridgw.*
3. Passerina hyperborea (*Ridgw.*) *Ridgw.*

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[1] Faune Franç. 1820, 86.

Analyse, 1816, p. 30, is "Le Ministre' of Buffon," etc. This conclusion has unfortunately been adopted by the A. O. U. Committee, in whose Check-List the type of *Passerina* Vieillot, is said to be "by elimination," *Tanagra cyanea* Linn. That this view of the case is quite wrong, however, I think may easily be shown. After the diagnosis of his genus *Passerina* in the 'Analyse,' Vieillot mentions three species, in the following order: "Ministre [= *Tanagra cyanea* Linn.]. — Ortolan de riz [= *Fringilla oryzivora* Linn.]. — de neige, Buff." [= *Emberiza nivalis* Linn.]. The first of these to be made the type of a new genus was *Fringilla oryzivora* (*Dolichonyx* Swains., 1827); the next, *Tanagra cyanea* (*Cyanospiza* Baird, 1858), *Emberiza nivalis* not having been made the type of a new genus until 1882, when Dr. Stejneger (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. V, p. 33), after demonstrating that the type of *Plectrophanes* Meyer, 1815, is *Fringilla lapponica* Linn. and not *Emberiza nivalis*, proposes for the latter the generic name *Plectrophenax*.

The type of *Passerina* Vieill., therefore, is, "by elimination," *Emberiza nivalis* and not *Tanagra cyanea*. If this view of the case is correct, we shall have to restore the unusually appropriate name *Cyanospiza* for the Indigo Bird and its congeners, and use *Passerina* for the Snowflakes, the recognized forms of the two genera being as follows:

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5. **Cyanospiza versicolor** (*Bonap.*) *Baird.*
6. **Cyanospiza versicolor pulchra** (*Ridgw.*) *Ridgw.*
7. **Cyanospiza rositæ** *Lawr.*

PASSERINA *Vieillot.*

1. **Passerina nivalis** (*Linn.*) *Vieill.*[1]
2. **Passerina nivalis townsendi** (*Ridgw.*) *Ridgw.*
3. **Passerina hyperborea** (*Ridgw.*) *Ridgw.*

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[1] Faune Franç. 1820, 86.

ciris

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Passerina ciris.

North Truro, Mass.

1891. Beneath one of the apple trees about the house, under a

May 31. grape arbor, in a bed of dandelions, feeding on the dandelion seeds, we saw a beautiful male Nonpariel. Mr,Small says it appeared on the 27th and had been seen daily since, always in or near the dandelion beds. It stayed until the afternoon of June 2nd but was apparently gone on the morning of the 3rd. It was very tame but easily startled by noise when it would fly up into the apple trees. This bird was doubtless an "escape" from one of the steamers which ply between Boston and Savanna for these vessels pass within a mile or two of Small's and at this season or a little earlier they usually carry large numbers of Nonpariels consigned to the Boston dealers in live birds.

1884 *Passerina ciris* Cambridge Mass.

June 26. "To-day Frank Moulton shot a Nonpareil (♂, No. 745 Coll. C. R. Lamb) with his sling. It was hopping about in a tree in a yard at the corner of Ash and Acacia Streets. When I skinned it it was in very good condition & showed no signs of being a cage bird ~~though~~ it probably was"

Ex note book C. R. Lamb.

Cyanospiza ciris.

1894. Arlington Mass.

July 22. "♂ in brilliant plumage, Arlington, July 22, 1894 (on edge of Mystic Pd.)." Seen by Dr. Walter Faxon Faxon in lett. Feb. 20, '03.

Auk, XIII, July, 1896, p. 261.

The Nonpariel at Longwood, Massachusetts.—On June 5, 1896, Henry V. Greenough brought me a male Painted Finch (*Passerina ciris*) which he had shot at about 8 A. M. The bird was in perfect plumage, its wings and tail showing apparently no cage wear and its feet in perfect condition.

I examined its stomach which contained white gravel, suggesting cage gravel (although the bird had been seen upon a gravel walk where I found the same kind of gravel), a white worm, a small amount of dark gravel and a few seeds (not canary seed), and the bird was also quite fat. Its testes were very much enlarged.

The bird uttered only a few notes on alighting and when started, like *chit-chit*. He was seen the day before, and although fairly tame at first, became quite wild from being watched.

The probability of course is strongly in favor of this being an escaped cage bird, but at the same time, the weather having been fair and warm for a week, this bird might have strayed from southern climes.—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Longwood, Mass.*

1011. *A Nonpareil Passerina ciris in Rhode Island.* [By F. T. Jencks.] *Ibid.*, No. 5, p. 8.—Shot in Scituate, R. I., "during the summer of 1882," by Daniel Seamans, who also shot, at the same place, a Richardson's Owl, "during the following winter."

Rand. Notes Nat. His, I

A NONPAREIL *Passerina ciris* IN RHODE ISLAND. — Mr. Daniel Seamans reports shooting a Nonpareil in Scituate, R. I., during the summer of 1882, but as he was just about leaving home, he could not preserve it. Mr. Seamans also mounted a RICHARDSON'S OWL during the following winter. It also was shot in Scituate, R. I.

Random Notes vol I no V May 1, 1884 Editorial

906. *Painted Finch on Long Island.* By A. L. Townsend. *Ibid.*, p. 424. For. & Stream. XXII

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First Plumages -- Brewster.

Contrary to the generalization I have made under Coturniculus Henslowi, Cyanospiza ciris. is, according to Ridgway, entirely immaculate beneath.

Bull. N.O.C 4, Jan, 1879, p 46.

New Species, &c., of American Birds.

11- Fringillidae (continued).

By Robert Ridgway.

Cyanospiza ciris (Linn.) Baird.

Auk, XV. Oct., 1898, pp. 319-324

See under Cyanospiza cyanea.

Spiza
americana

Nesting Habits of Texas Birds.

H. P. Atwater, London, Ontario.

Black-throated Bunting, (*Spiza americana*). Very common; hundreds of flocks passed north during the migrations and many stopped to breed. They prefer the lower and damper parts and build in the highest limb or top of an evergreen bush that is found in the low spots of this region. On the 15th of May, 1884, I visited one of these spots and found about twenty nests nearly all completed and some containing four fresh eggs. Nests about five feet from the ground and quite bulky, compared with those of other birds of the same size. These birds seem to pass most of their time sitting on the top of these bushes and tall weeds, and keep up an incessant chirping from the time they arrive in the country.

O.&O. XII. Aug. 1887 p.123

Some new records for Nova Scotia

Spiza americana. Dickcissel.—A young male in first winter plumage taken September 13, 1902. Another wanderer from the Mississippi Valley, perhaps.

Jonathan Dwight, jr. M.D., New York City.

Auk XX, Oct., 1903, p.440.

The Black-throated Bunting in Maine.—On Sept. 29, 1884, I shot a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) at Job's Island, one of the smaller islands in Penobscot Bay, Maine. The bird was found in a grass-field near a farm-house, and proved to be a young male of the year in good plumage. This is, I believe, the first instance of its capture north of Massachusetts.

The fact that the specimen was a young of the year, and that it was taken during the autumn migration, would lead one to think it had been reared in the region where it was found, or even farther north.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, *Cambridge, Mass.* Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 106.

A young male *Spiza americana* was taken by Mr. Ralph H. Norton at Westbrook, Cumberland Co., Maine, Oct. 10, 1888. The bird was flushed from the rushes growing by a low field drain, and was in company with several species of Sparrows. The throat mark was indicated by a few black-centred feathers scattered over the upper throat. The skin is now in my collection. So far I have been unable to find any record of its occurrence in Maine. —ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Westbrook, Maine.*

Auk X, July, 1893 p. 302.

General Notes.

Corrections.

Spiza americana. — The Westbrook specimen and record is preceded by Mr. Charles W. Townsend's Job's Island specimen, recorded in 'The Auk,' Vol. II, Jan., 1885, p. 106. — ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Westbrook, Me.*

Auk XI. Jan. 1894 p. 79

Cape Cod. G.S. Miller, Jr,

Spiza americana.—A single immature male shot from a mixed flock of small Sparrows feeding in an asparagus bed, on September 30, 1889, is my only Cape Cod record of this species.

Thoreau in speaking of this part of the Cape ('Cape Cod,' p. 120) says: "Of birds not found in the interior of the State—at least in my neighborhood—I heard, in Summer, the Black-throated Bunting (*Fringilla Americana*) amid the shrubbery." This was in 1855 (l. c., p. 1) and it is very possible that the bird was more common there then than now. If the species breeds at all near Highland Light at present, it must be a very rare occurrence, as I utterly failed to detect it during the breeding season, although, having read Thoreau's note, I was constantly on the lookout for it. Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 229.

(Cross Reference) Spiza americana

Carpenter - F. C. Breeding in Bristol Co., Mass

See Pub. Bris Orn. Club #3

(In pocket under Dendroica caerulescens)

Some Rare Rhode Island Birds. — The following species, considered rare for that portion of the country, have been observed by me in the vicinity of Newport, R. I: .... Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*), one specimen, Sept., 1888; ——— ......

Wirt Robinson, 2d. Lieut., 4th. Artillery, Fort Adams, R. I.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 194.

Birds, Central N. Y.
Fowler, Wright & Rathbun.

240. Black-throated Bunting.—(*Spiza americana.*) (Gm.) Bonap. June 6th, 1879, an adult male was taken by F. S. Wright near the village of Cayuga, N. Y. A second male was taken by Mr. Wright in the same locality, June 9th, 1879. Both birds were in full song, and were shot from alder bushes overhanging a brook.

O. & O. V11. Jun. 1882. p. 133

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

12. **Spiza americana.** Dickcissel.—At the time when Mr. Giraud was collecting data for his list of Long Island birds, the Black-throated Bunting must have been a not uncommon bird. This is the only inference that can be drawn from his statement: "About the middle of May the Black-throated Bunting arrives on Long Island from the South. It prefers the grain, grass and clover fields, where it continues its oft-repeated chirrup until the early part of August, then becoming silent. In the early part of September it migrates southward."‡ The Lawrence collection contains a male and a female specimen from Long Island. Mr Helme, of Miller's Place, was so fortunate as to secure two specimens this fall, both of which he considered migrants. They were also the first that he had ever shot on Long Island. The first one, a young male, was secured September 29, and the second was taken October 10. Mr. Helme was crossing the field in which he obtained the specimen September 29 when he saw what he supposed were three individuals of this species. They, however, flew before he had a chance to secure either of them. He returned to the same field about noon and flushed one which was in company with some Song Sparrows. It flew into an apple tree when he secured it. It proved to be a male, and the exact counterpart of the one first shot. The above are the only Long Island records that I am cognizant of since the Giraud and Lawrence lists were published.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 137-138.

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‡Birds of Long Island, p. 100, 1844.

Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*) **on Long Island, N. Y.**—A young male of this species was shot at Blithewood, Long Island, on Aug. 25. The bird was in bad company when it met its fate, for it had joined a flock of English Sparrows in their depredations upon a neighboring oat-field. The specimen is a young male, the black throat indicated only by bounding streaks of that color, and a black tip here and there among the throat feathers.—Frank E. Johnson, *Parkville, Long Island, N. Y.*

AUK, VIII, Jan, 1891, p. 116.

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Spiza americana. Dickcissel.—The specimen in the collection was taken by Col. Pike at College Point, Long Island, in 1841. Mr. Akhurst states that about that period they were very common birds, breeding freely all over Kings County, in suitable localities, especially in clover fields. He has not seen any for many years.

Auk X, July, 1893 p 276.

Auk, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 95.

Spiza americana near Kingston, New York.—The familiar song of this species attracted my attention as I was driving a few miles from Kingston on June 5, 1896. The bird proved to be a full-plumaged male, but I was unable to secure him at the time or to return later to the same spot. The occurrence, however, of the species in the Hudson River Valley seems worthy of special mention.—Jonathan Dwight, Jr., M. D., *New York City.*

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

73. Euspiza americana.

First plumage. Above pale fulvous, with broad markings of dark brown upon the feathers of the interscapular region, and narrower fainter ones of lighter brown upon the crown. Bend of wing, middle and greater coverts, fulvous. Under parts delicate fawn-color, deepest upon the breast. No markings beneath, excepting a faintly indicated line of dusky spots upon the sides of the breast. From a specimen in my cabinet collected at Columbus, Ohio, by Dr. J.-M. Wheaton. This bird is very young, scarcely large enough to fly.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, July, 1878. p. 122.

Undescribed First Plumages, Brewster

106. Euspiza americana.

Autumnal plumage: young. Crown, shoulder, and rump, with sides of head and neck, light olive-brown, the centres of the feathers slightly darker; a little concealed chestnut on the shoulders. Feathers of the interscapular region with dull black centres and brownish-fulvous edges. Wing-bands, with outer margins of wing-coverts and secondaries, dull brownish-fulvous. Superciliary line brownish-yellow, fading anteriorly to brownish-white. Throat, central area of the abdomen, and the crissum, pale brownish-white. Sides of breast and body brownish-olive, with dark brown streaking on the flanks. Breast dull reddish-orange, streaked with dark brown, and washed with obscure ashy-white. From a specimen in the collection of Dr. J. M. Wheaton obtained at Circleville, O., August, 1878.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 41.

252. *Spiza americana .... Black-throated Bunting.* By the Editor. *Ibid.*, p. 95.—Description of an abnormal specimen. Jour. Cincin. Soc. N.H. 1882

The Black-throated Bunting, ~~Yellow-breasted Chat, and Connecticut Warbler~~ in Ontario.—On June 1, 1884, Mr. Wm. L. Bailey, collecting with Mr. A. P. Saunders and the writer at Point Pelee, found several Black-throated Buntings in a meadow about two miles from the end of the Point. Knowing of no previous record in Canada, we were all much interested; and subsequently, in extending our search, we found one or more pairs in almost every field. All our efforts to discover a nest seemed doomed to fail; and even when we spent much time and care in watching the birds, and marking down the place where the supposed nest was, we could never succeed. The males spent much time in singing their monotonous ditty from tree-tops and fence-posts, and even during the heat of the day our presence was sufficient to start them going. This appeared to act as a partial alarm to the female, and if we approached, the male would fly over her and give an alarm-note, precisely after the manner of the Bobolink under similar circumstances.

On June 6, in passing through one of the 'Bunting fields' on the return trip, the writer flushed a female from a fresh set of five eggs of the usual size and color. The nest, which is now before me, was placed *on*, not *in* the ground, among the stems of a tuft of weeds, and is composed of leaves externally, and lined with fine, dry grass. Its measurements are as follows: outside diameter, 100 mm.; inside diameter, 63 mm.; height outside, 63 mm.; depth inside, 45 mm. These birds were observed in every suitable locality on the Point, and on the return drive they were heard constantly till we had gone three miles into the mainland, when no more were noticed.

W. E. Saunders, London, Ontario.

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 307-308.

The Black-throated Bunting (*Euspiza americana*) nesting in Massachusetts. — Mr. Frank E. Bean of Medford has called my attention to a nest and four eggs of this bird found by him in the above town on the 9th of June, 1877, at which date the eggs were fresh. The nest, seemingly large for the species, was supported about a foot from the ground by the stem of a bush and the blades of the grass-clump in which it was placed. Both nest and eggs are quite typical. Towards the last of June he found, in another locality, a second nest containing four young. This was in a field bordering the highway; the song of the male bird perched on the fence-rails hard by first attracted his attention, and both birds were soon seen feeding the nestlings. Mr. Bean thinks that more than these two pairs may have raised young in his vicinity, as he has heard other birds in this and previous years. But few instances of the nesting of the Black-throated Bunting in Massachusetts are known, and it is to be hoped that this bird of "neat plumage" and "trim form," so common in the Middle and Western States, where it is known as the "Little Field Lark," "Dick-sissel" and "Judas-Bird," will gradually become a permanent resident of our fields and bushy pastures. — H. A. Purdie, *Newton, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 45.

Nesting of the Black-throated Bunting (*Euspiza americana*) in Massachusetts. — On page 45, Vol. III, of the Bulletin, Mr. Purdie records the finding of two nests of this Bunting in Medford, Mass., in June, 1877, one containing eggs and the other young, and on page 190 mention is made of several specimens seen at Hingham, Mass., in June, 1878, one pair seen feeding their young.

Although this bird has been rarely met with of late years in the State, yet it would seem that a limited number must breed with us every year.

Through the kindness of Mr. N. C. Hammond I am enabled to record an instance of its breeding in Hyde Park, Mass., where he collected a nest containing four eggs, about August 1, 1878. The nest was placed on the ground in the middle of a large open field, and from the lateness of this date would indicate that it must have been a second brood. — Ruthven Deane, *Cambridge, Mass.* Bull. N.O.C. 4, April, 1879, p. 122-123.

A Runt Egg of the Black-Throated Bunting.

BY A. C. HAMMOND, JR.

Seeing the article on "Runt Eggs and Their Causes, in the December number of the O. & O., I thought it would not be inappropriate to give an instance of a runt egg of my experience.

On June 29, 1886, I found the nest of a Black-throated Bunting (*Spiza americana*), which contained four fresh eggs. The nest was composed of dry sage grass and was placed in some blackberry vines. The patch of briars was only about fifteen or twenty feet through, and was in an open sage field; but several nests of this species were found in this patch of briars, in some of which was incubation begun. The nest in question was about two feet from the ground. Three of the eggs were unusually large. They measured .93 x .65; .93 x .65; and .90 x .65. The average measurement of the eggs of this species is .80 x 60.

The fourth egg, which is the small one, measures .65 x .50, which is far below the average measurement, and much below the measurements of the other eggs.

This runt was most probably caused by the exaustion of the bird in laying the three large eggs. The eggs are perfect in their shape, with the exception of being a little more elongated than the ordinary egg of this species.

O.&O. XIII. Apr. 1888 p.60.

THE BLACK-THROATED BUNTING (*Euspiza americana*). — On page 45 of the present volume of the Bulletin reference is had to the finding the nest and eggs of this bird in Medford, in June, 1877, and the remark is made that but few instances are known of this bird nesting in Massachusetts. Without disputing this statement, I would mention that in 1833 and 1834 this bird was by no means uncommon in Cambridge in all the (then unoccupied) region around the Botanical Garden and thence to West Cambridge and Charlestown. It may be found now every summer on the high promontory making the northeast corner of Hingham, known as Planter's Hill and World's-End, lying between Weir River and the harbor. Mention is made of its breeding in that locality in "North American Birds" (Vol. II, page 67, lines 2 and 3), and since then its presence has been noted every season when search has been made. In order to verify its presence in this its favorite locality, this summer I made a successful exploration, June 30, in company with my nephew, Willard S. Brewer. We found one pair, with young, which the female was busily engaged in feeding with small grasshoppers, while the male was intent upon his quaint serenade on a near heap of stones. They were quite tame and unsuspicious, and permitted a very close approach. We saw two other males, evidently in the neighborhood of their respective families, but the heat compelled us to desist from further investigations. In the same locality we found *Spizella pusilla*, *Poœcetes gramineus*, and *Melospiza melodia*, but the Buntings were present in at least equal numbers, as we heard the notes of other males besides the three we fully identified. But a fierce sun, with the glass at 90° in the shade, was not favorable to a full census of all the pairs inhabiting this remote region. We saw enough to satisfy us of its actual presence in considerable numbers. — T. M. BREWER, *Boston, Mass.* Bull. N.O.C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 190-191.

Nests in which Cowbirds' eggs have been found A. C. Poling

8. *Spiza americana*. Black-throated Bunting. But once recorded. One egg, May 30. The nest deserted.

O.&O. XIV. Sept. 1889 p133

[illegible]

ON THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE DICK CISSEL (SPIZA AMERICANA) FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

BY

HUGH M. SMITH,

Assistant, U. S. Fish Commission.

While it is a matter of no great rarity for certain of the larger birds inhabiting a particular region to become scarce, or locally extinct, because of the direct persecution and slaughter carried on by man or on account of the cutting away of forests and other similar procedures, instances of the disappearance of small birds from a locality which they have regularly frequented are by no means common, especially when this disappearance is independent of the agency of man.

Such is the case of the Dick Cissel in the vicinity of Washington. At one time an abundant summer visitant, it is now a veritable *rara avis*.

Speaking of this subject in their "Avifauna Columbiana," Coues and Prentiss say:

> This bird used to arrive regularly about the first of May, and leave toward the end of September, meanwhile being very abundant. * * * Now, however, the bird appears to have forsaken us, few if any having been heard of for the past few years. * * * Whatever the cause, it is one of the most remarkable changes in the bird fauna of the immediate vicinity of the city.

This was in 1883. At the present time there can be no doubt that the species is nothing more than the most accidental straggler, since only one bird has been observed during the past fifteen years, notwithstanding the activity of the local collectors in searching for the species.

The late Professor Baird stated a short time before his death that he remembered when the Dick Cissel nested commonly in the Smithsonian Grounds, and he was accustomed to observe the birds daily at the proper season as he passed to and from his work in the Institution.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Ridgway, the Curator of the Department of Birds, it has been possible to prepare the following list, showing all

Calamospiza
melanocorys

Lark Bunting in New Brunswick.— August 15, 1910, a young male Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*) was shot by Allen J. Moses at Nantucket, a small island near Grand Manan, New Brunswick. The bird was determined by Dr. Glover M. Allen of the Boston Society of Natural History who stated that this was only the fourth record of this species in the East, the others being from Massachusetts, Long Island and South Carolina.— ELIZABETH M. DUNHAM, *Auburndale, Mass.*

Auk 27. Oct. 1910 p. 490.

THE LARK-BUNTING (*Calamospiza bicolor*) IN MASSACHUSETTS. — The first instance known to me of the capture of this species east of the Mississippi River occurred on December 5, 1877, when a specimen was shot by Mr. N. A. Vickary at Lynn, Mass., — a male in autumnal plumage. Its usual eastern limit is well known to be the plains of middle Kansas, where it ranges eastward to about, or possibly a little beyond, Fort Harker. The specimen has been kindly shown me by Mr. Vickary, to whom I am indebted for a knowledge of its capture. — J. A. ALLEN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878. p. 48.

Massachusetts.

Calamospiza melanocorys on Long Island, N. Y.—On the 4th of September, 1888, I obtained, at Montauk Point, L. I., a specimen of this species. The bird was a young one in first plumage but full grown, and in rather ragged condition externally, though of average plumpness as to flesh. To Mr. Ridgway I am indebted for its identification.

The bird was found on the edge of a salt marsh near the beach, and, being not recognized, was shot on sight. During the latter part of August and the first days of September there was certainly no wind or storm heavy enough to blow the bird so far, and it seems altogether strange that it should have found its way to such a locality.—EVAN M. EVANS, *Princeton, N. J.*

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 192.

New York.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

14. **Calamospiza bicolor.** LARK BUNTING. — Dr. W. J. Hoffmann states (Am. Nat., Vol. XII, p. 476) that he has noticed white feathers scattered indiscriminately over the neck and breast in a number of specimens secured on Heart River in Dakota Territory.

Bull. N.O.C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 27

Editor of O. & O.:

Following is a short note on the capture of an Albino Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza bicolor*). I shot it on the 24th of August, 1890, near Cando, Towner Co., North Dakota. It was feeding on the prairie and in an oat field, in company of about twenty other Lark Buntings, which were in their usual plumage. Its actions were the same. The plumage of this specimen is pure white; bill and feet a pale flesh color, which faded to a dull white as they dried. The size was as follows: Length, 6⅜ in.; extent, 10⅞ in.; wing, 3¼ in.; tail, 2⅜ in.; tarsus, ⅞ in.; toe and nail, ½ in. Iris, noticeably pink, whole eyeball showing very light color. Sex uncertain, it being a young bird, and a shot went through the body near position of the sexual organs. There were the remains of grasshoppers in stomach. The outline and size of bill and feet and the general contour of the body would show conclusively that it is a Lark Bunting, and as perfect an albino as is usually seen.

Elmer T. Judd.

Bethel, Conn.

O&O, XVI, March. 1891, p. 47.

Birds of Southeastern Dakota, G. S. Agersborg. Revised by W. W. Cooke

77. **Calamospiza bicolor.** LARK BUNTING.—Common summer resident. It prefers the low bottom lands with their tall growth of grass for nesting places. Several nests may sometimes be found within an area of a quarter section. The male is conspicuous during the whole season; the female less so, being rarely seen, especially during incubation. The eggs of this species and of the Black-throated Bunting are so similar that it is necessary to be very careful in identifying the nest and birds. Of the many nests I have seen, those of the Lark Bunting were invariably placed on the ground between the grass tufts; those of the Black-throated Bunting sometimes on the ground, at other times in the middle of a tuft, the growing grass elevating it for several inches. The nest of the Lark Bunting is, as a rule, not so well upholstered with horse hair as that of the Black-throated. Snaring is often the surest means of correct identification, but this may mislead, as it once did me. Setting a steel-trap on a Duck's nest to catch the mother, I was surprised next morning to find in my trap the 'wrong bird,'—an oölogist commonly styled 'Skunk.'

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 281

Sunny So. Oologist. 1502. *Colorado Birds.* By Fred. M. Dille. *Ibid.*, p. 29.—*Calamospiza melanocorys* and *Ægialitis montana.* Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 80.

1967. *The Lark Finch.* By J. A. Singley. *Ibid.*, p. 28.—Nesting habits in Texas. Orn. & Oologist's Semi-annual, Vol. 1. No. 2.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 305–6

The Lark Bunting in South Carolina. — One afternoon in the early part of April I noticed a very plump looking Sparrow while I was walking down a road which had a very thick hedge on one side. This bird was in the top of a bush when I noticed it and it bore a strong resemblance to the Grass Finch (*Poocætes gramineus*), only it was larger. I fired at it with a small collecting pistol and slightly wounded it. Day after day I visited the spot hoping to see the bird again. Eight days afterwards, April 19, early one morning I saw the same bird within a few yards of the place where I had wounded it. It was perched on a low bush and upon seeing me flew down into a field where a lot of White-throated Sparrows were feeding. This time I secured it. Upon examination I was completely puzzled for it was a new bird to me. I had in mind the Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*), and specimens of this bird, kindly sent me by Messrs. Brewster and Chapman, confirmed my suspicions. The bird is an adult female and evidently wintered, as it was moulting about the throat. It seems strange that this bird was taken within 200 yards of the place where I shot the Missouri Skylark, and Little Brown Crane, recorded in recent numbers of 'The Auk.' — ARTHUR T. WAYNE, *Mount Pleasant, S. C.*

Sturnus
vulgaris

92

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **at Portland, Maine.**— Last summer several reports came to hand that the Starling was breeding at Stroudwater, a suburb of Portland. On tracing these reports it was found that they all emanated from one source, Mr. George Parker, a student in the Deering High School, and an earnest student of birds. On July 15, 1917, I visited Mr. Parker at his home in Stroudwater and he took me to a nearby orchard where we quickly found the Starlings in several small groups. Several of the groups flew to a point in the orchard and then across a field to another part of it and we were able to count nineteen, though there were undoubtedly more in the vicinity. Many of these were in brown immature plumage giving support to Mr. Parker's belief that four pairs had bred in the vicinity. His first observation (which he had noted in a diary) was December 27, 1916, of a group of five.

Though this is not the first time that the Starling has appeared in Maine in recent years, it is believed that this record may be of service in fixing the time of the permanent arrival of the bird in Portland.

One specimen from the colony has been preserved in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History.— ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland, Me.*

Auk, Vol. XXXV. 1918. p. 224.

An English Starling in Maine.—Calais, Me., Aug. 14.—A boy has sent me an English starling shot here with some redwings. I saw some imported ones were let out at Central Park last spring. This may be one of them come north.—Geo. A. Boardman.

For. & Str. Vol. XXXIII No 5 Aug. 22-1889 p. 85.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **in New Hampshire.**— Four Starlings were seen at Hanover, N. H., on April 17, 1915. As this is the first time these birds have been seen here, I thought the record might prove of interest.—E. Gordon Bell, *Hanover, N. H.*

Auk. XXXII. Oct. 1915. p. 496.

Springfield Mass., by Robert O. Morris.

Rare Birds near Springfield, Mass.— Sturnus vulgaris. In April, 1908, a Starling was taken in Agawam, near Springfield. It was with a flock of blackbirds. Eleven years ago about a hundred Starlings were liberated here, but they soon disappared.

Auk 26, Jan-1909, p. 84.

Springfield, Mass., Bird Notes. — Sturnus vulgaris. — During the spring of 1897, nearly a hundred Starlings were liberated near Springfield, some of which survived the following winter, which was one of about the average in point of severity. Robt. O. Morris, Springfield, Mass.

Auk, XVI, Jan., 1899, pp. 85-6.

The Starling near Springfield, Mass.— A Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was caught by a cat, in Hadley, eighteen miles north of Springfield, January 25, 1909. In February and through the early spring a number of these birds were seen in this vicinity, and during the present month a pair has been found breeding in Agawam, on the west side of the Connecticut River. Apparently the range of the Starling in this country is extending north and inland.

I do not think it is probable that the Starlings that have recently been seen in this vicinity are the survivors or descendants of those introduced here twelve years ago. At least it is not possible that these birds could have been residents of this region for more then ten years without their presence being noticed. There are more observers of birds here than there were forty years ago, and the least reliable of these would hardly be mistaken in identifying a Starling especially if it was seen during the colder months.—

Robert O. Morris
Springfield, Mass.

Auk 26, July-1909, p. (306-07.

A Starling at Squantum, Mass.— On March 26, 1912, on a trip to Squantum and Moon Island with Mr. Richard M. Marble, a Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was seen on the headland, known as Squantum Head. It was in company with four Robins and was viewed on successive perches upon the scattered trees and also as it walked on the ground. The bird was not seen on subsequent visits to the place either by ourselves or by other observers. As Squantum Head is within sight of the gilded dome of the State House, the occurrence of this individual Starling, is, so far as I am aware, the first record of the species in the immediate vicinity of Boston.— Horace W. Wright, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk. XXIX. July 1912. p. 394.

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **at Springfield, Mass.**— In the spring of 1908 the presence of a single Starling was first noticed in this vicinity. Since that time the number observed in this part of the Connecticut valley has rapidly increased until this winter flocks containing upwards of one hundred individuals have been often seen. They now occasionally come into the very center of the city, frequenting the spires and cupolas of the churches and public buildings.— Robert O. Morris, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk. XXIX. Apr. 1912. p. 243.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **in Cambridge, Mass.**— A flock of Starlings numbering about sixty birds appeared at Fresh Pond in Cambridge, in late November, 1913. They were first seen by me on the 27th day and have been successively observed up to the middle of February, the time of the writing of this note. Occasionally the flock has been divided and fewer individuals only have been seen; yet it appears to have remained essentially intact, for on February 4 and 13 the number was reckoned as fifty or more. On December 25 seventy-three birds were actually counted, as they passed in squads in the same direction from one group of trees to another group. On January 30 one was singing very prettily, perched high and alone in an oak. This is the first flock to appear in the vicinity of Boston. A single bird only has been hitherto reported, seen at Squantum Head, March 26, 1912 (Auk, XXIX, July, 1912, p. 394), which disappeared and was not further noted. The Cambridge flock has remained in and about the Fresh Pond reservation. It is interesting that an employee in the park, who told me that he was fifteen years from Ireland, recognized these birds at once on their appearance, feeling sure they were what were called in the Old Country 'Stares,' in England, Starlings. He was pleased to have the identification confirmed.— Horace W. Wright, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk. XXXI. Apr. 1914. p. 249-250.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **at Barnstable, Mass.**— Mr. W. S. Holway of Watertown, Mass., who has a hunting shanty on the Great Marshes at Barnstable, communicated to the writer the following bird tragedy.

The shanty which has not been in use during the summer was visited on August 26 by Mr. Holway's brother, who was to look it over and put it in order for the fall gunning. As he entered he heard a flutter in the vertical part of the stove pipe, and some distance above the damper discovered a small hole in which he thought he could see something moving. Enlarging the opening to investigate, sixteen birds came flying out one by one. On taking down the pipe he found a solid mass of dead birds from the damper to the hole, and a dozen more in the horizontal run. At the bottom of the outside chimney, into which the horizontal pipe fitted, were at least fifty. In all, he said, there were over one hundred. Specimens brought to the writer for identification proved to be Starlings.

The birds made their entrance through the slots of the cap on the chimney, and were evidently unable to fly up and out of the small pipe or to crawl up its smooth, glazed lining. Mr. Holway placed some fine chicken wire over the cap to prevent the birds from entering in the future. Incidentally, this suggests the lines along which a Starling trap may be made when it shall become necessary to deal more strenuously with these annoying pests.— T. E. Penard, *Arlington, Mass.*

Auk. XXXV. Jan. 1918. p. 80-81.

Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **at Providence, R. I.**— It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk,' in following the movements of the Starling to know they have appeared in Providence, R. I. My business requiring my presence in this city for a few weeks, on the morning of November 23, I started out with my field glass to see what could be seen here in the line of bird life. In passing through Swan Point Cemetery I was not a little surprised to encounter a flock of about forty Starlings, many of them in full summer plumage; they were constantly in song, many times singing notes quite like our Bluebird. I have had other excellent observations of them covering a date as late as December 6.

In the same section on December 1, 1912, I found two Mockingbirds but have failed to record them this season.— E. E. Caduc, *Boston, Mass.*

Auk. XXXI, Apr. 1914. p. 249.

The European Starling in Connecticut.— December 3, 1900, I took a male Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in North Haven, Conn. The bird was alone late in the afternoon, and flew from up the river into some trees near the edge of the Quinnipiack Marshes. I judged from its actions that it was looking for the blackbirds which every autumn roost in large numbers in the rushes near where it was shot, and with which it may have associated before they left for the South. Mr. W. H. Hoyt tells me that three Starlings have been taken recently from a flock that is spending the winter on Noroton Hill, near Stamford.— Louis B. Bishop, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.* Auk, XVIII, April., 1901, pp. 194-5.

Auk, XV, Jan., 1898, pp. 55-6.

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) **on Long Island.**— The European Starling seems to have successfully established itself on Long Island. In the summer of 1896 I was informed that this bird was nesting in the tower of the Boys' High School Building at Marcy and Putnam Avenues, Brooklyn. Of the accuracy of this report I was unable at the time to acquaint myself personally. Lately, however, the Starlings may be seen perched on, and flying about this tower at almost any time. It is apparently a place in which they have taken up a permanent abode. Flying from these high perches they look not a little like Martins, and might be mistaken for them at a season when the latter birds are present.

A Starling was killed about a year ago in the immediate outskirts of Brooklyn by a boy who knocked it down with a stone. I am unable to give the date.

I first noted the Starling in the field on October 8, this year, when a flock of a dozen or more was seen perched in a tree by the roadside near the Kensington Station. During this and the next month I saw them in this locality several times. Once or twice one or more birds were seen on the piazza roof of a suburban cottage in apparently *friendly* company with English Sparrows. On October 22, about thirty individuals of this species were seen in this neighborhood. Two specimens were shot, the stomachs of which were sent to Dr. Merriam, chief of the United States Biological Survey.

The bill of fare of the Starling has not been materially changed by its transportation to another continent. It enjoys in England at about the same time of year, about the same food. In the one full stomach examined (the other was nearly empty), ninety-five per cent of the contents was animal matter, mainly insects (multipeds and beetles, larval lampyrids, grasshoppers, crickets, ichneumonid, caterpillar), but also included two small pieces of bone, "probably belonging to some batrachian." The five per cent was merely vegetable rubbish. Dr. Merriam kindly stated that the contents of this stomach, examined by Prof. Beal, agree essentially with those of three stomachs taken in England in October.

The bird will doubtless widen its range on Long Island, though its extension in this direction since its introduction into New York City, in 1890, has not as yet been rapid. — William C. Braislin, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Notes on Long Island Birds.

Sturnus vulgaris. About a mile in a straight line from the colony of Skylarks, I first saw the European Starling, where it was afterward seen repeatedly. Near Kensington Station someone within the present year has placed in a large tree several bird boxes, which are occupied by the Starlings.

The tower of the Boys' High School in Brooklyn noted in the article referred to as occupied by these birds, still retains its attractions for them. This was probably the original nesting colony on Long Island. Another colony now occupies the steeple of a church at Bedford Avenue and Madison Street. At several points in the environs of Brooklyn the Starlings have been seen, where they were evidently visiting for the purpose of obtaining food, while at various points in the city itself they are commonly observed. Auk, XVI, April, 1899, pp. 190-3.

Wm C. Braislin, M. D., Brooklyn. N. Y.

Notes concerning certain birds of Long Island, N. Y.

Sturnus vulgaris. As a fulfillment of predictions that the Starling would gradually widen its range on Long Island, it is perhaps worth while to note that a specimen has been taken as far east as Hicksville. Mr. Lott, a taxidermist of Freeport, informed me that a bird strange to him had been sent for mounting, with a report that it had been shot at Hicksville. On examining the specimen I found it to be a Starling.— William C. Braislin, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Auk, XXI, Apr., 1904, p. 289

The Starling at Plattsburg, N. Y.— While at the second officers' training camp, I observed a flock of five Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) flying over the town some time the first week in October, 1917. It is believed that this is the farthest north that this species has been noted.— Ludlow Griscom, *2nd Lieut., Inf., O. R. C.*

Auk XXXV. Oct. 1918. p. 481.

Dolichonyx
oryzivorus

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

May Wel. 9^{1}_{*}(Dun.) - B. $11^{2♂}_{*}$ - W. 13^{1}(Bolles) - Wm. Bel. $14^{3♂}$ - Cd. $17^{12♂}_{*}$ - B. $30^{4♂}_{*}$ 1889. B. $1^{1♂*}$(Faxon) - B. 7^{1}_{*} . Cg.(Loons) $11^{1♂}_{*}$ - Cd. $15^{10♂}_{*}$ - Wm. Bel. $16^{14♂}_{*}$ - Wm. Lin. Bel. $19^{30♂}_{*}$ - Hill's Cross. 24^{1}_{*} - Cs. 28^{1}_{*} . B. $29^{3♂}_{*}$ - Cd. Way 30^{8}_{*} - Way. 31^{6}_{*} 1890.

B.(Willows) $10^{2♂}_{*}$ - B.(Willows) 17^{1}_{*} - Hill's Cross. 18^{1}_{*} - Cd. 22^{2}_{*} - Cd.-Way $23^{13♂}_{*}$ c. - Lin. 2♂ Cd. 5♂ 28_{*} Carl 4♂ - N. Truro 31^{1}_{*} 1891. $25^{2♂*}_{1♀}$ - 28^{4}_{*} - 29^{6}_{*} - 30^{4}_{*} - 31^{8}_{*} } Concord, Mass.

3^{1}_{*} . 5^{1}_{*} - $6^{(4♂)}_{*}$ - 7^{1}_{*} - 8^{2}_{*} - 9^{5}_{*} - 10^{2}_{*} - 11^{5}_{*} - 12^{3}_{*} - 13^{8}_{*} - 14^{4}_{*} - 15^{2}_{*} - 16^{4}_{*} - 17 - 18^{1} - 19^{6}_{*} - 20^{3}_{*} - 21^{3}_{*} - 22^{3}_{*} - 23^{8} - 24^{4}_{*} } 1892

1^{1}_{*} (arrived Apr 29) - 9^{2}_{*} - $10^{4♂}_{*}$ - 11^{4}_{*} - 12^{4}_{*} - 13^{3}_{*} - 14^{3}_{*} - $15^{7♂♂}_{*}$ first ♀ . 16^{2}_{*} - Cd to Cs. $17^{20♂♂}_{1♀}$ - 19^{5}_{*} - 20^{15}_{*} - 21^{3}_{*} - 22^{3}_{*} - 23^{2}_{*} - 24^{3}_{*} - 25^{4}_{*} 26^{4}_{*} 27^{3}_{*} 28^{2}_{*} 29^{2}_{*} 30^{2}_{*} - Concord 1893.

Cd. 6^{1}_{*} 8^{2}(Fax.) Concord 12^{2}_{*} 13^{1}_{*} 14^{3}_{*} Concord 19^{3}_{*} 20^{1}_{*} E. Bex $21^{♂♀}$(first ♀) - Concord $26^{12♂}_{*}$ 27^{2}_{*} 28^{6}_{*} 1894

June Cd. $1^{12♂\ 7♀}$ 3 nests 5 eggs each - G. $3^{1♂}_{*}$ - Cs. $5^{1♂}_{*}$ - Cs. $9^{2♂}_{*}$ - Cg.(Loons) $11^{1♂}_{*}$ - Way. $16^{2♂}_{*}$ - N. $20^{3♂*}_{2♀}$ - Cd. $21^{10♂}_{*}$ - Cd. $22^{4♂}_{*}$ 1889.

" Way. Cd. 1^{6}_{*} - Hill's Cross. 5^{1}_{*} - do. 6^{1}_{*} Saugus 7^{1}_{*} - B. 8^{1}_{*} S. $10^{3♂}_{*}$ - Sw. 15^{1}_{*} 1890. - N. Truro 1^{1}_{*}(Small) - 1891.

" 1^{6}_{*} - 2^{2}_{*} - 3^{6}_{*} - 5^{2}_{*} . 6^{3}_{*} - 7^{3}_{*} - 8^{3}_{*} - 12^{1}_{*} - 13^{3}_{*} . 15^{2}_{*} - 16^{2}_{*} . 18^{4}_{*} . 19^{3}_{*} . 20^{2}_{*} - 21^{5}_{*} - 22^{4}_{*} - 23^{3}_{*} 1892 Concord, Mass.

" Concord 26^{3}_{*} - 27^{2}_{*} - 28^{1}_{*} - 30^{2}_{*} . 1893.

" Cd. 7^{4}_{*} 1894

July Cs. 7^{hd}(chink note) - 1889. 27 . $28^{4\text{ ad } ♂♂}_{1\text{ chang. pl.}}$ - 29^{10} - 31^{11} } Concord, Mass.

" 1^{6}_{*} - 2^{4}_{*} - 3^{1}_{*} . 4^{2}_{*} . 5^{2} - 8^{1}_{*} - 9^{1}_{*} - $10^{1}_{(*)}$ - 11^{1}_{*} . 12^{2} . 13^{2} - $14^{(30)}_{(7)\ 10}$ - $15^{(6)}$ - 16 . 17^{hd} . $18^{(40)}$ - 19^{hd} - $21^{(25)}$ - 24 . 26^{hd} } 1892.

1^{1}_{*} - 3^{2}_{*} - 4^{2} - 5^{3}_{*} - 6^{2}_{*} - 7^{4}_{*} - 12^{3}_{*} - $13^{(26)}$ - $14^{(15)(2)}_{(12)\ *}$ - 16 - 17 - $19^{(10)}$ - $20^{(3)}$ - $22^{(10)}_{(15)}$ - 23 - $29^{(6)}$ - $31^{(5)}$ 2 ad ♂♂. one minus tail + patched yellow + black Concord. 1893.

August Cg.(over) 8^{hd} - B. 15^{hd} - Cd. 20^{10} - Cg.(over) 28^{hd} 1889. Cd. 12^{hd} - Cg.(over) $14^{(2)}$ - Fal. $17^{(8)}_{(2)}$ - Cg. 18^{hd} - Cg. over 19^{hd} - 20^{hd} - 21^{h} . 1890.

1^{hd} - 3^{15} - 12^{hd} - 13^{hd} - 14^{hd} - $15^{(40)}$ - $17^{(15)}$ - $28^{(34)(7)}_{(15)(4)\ (8)(3)}$ - $20^{(200)}$ - 21^{hd} - $22^{(50)}$ 23 . 24^{30} $26^{(4)}_{(3)}$ - $28^{(100)}$ - 29^{hd} - 30^{6} - 31^{6} Concord 1892

$2^{(6)}$ - $4^{(4)}$ - 7^{hd} - $8^{(9)}$ - $10^{(2)}$ - $11^{(30)}_{10}$ - 12 - $13^{(15)}$ - 14^{5} - 16^{15}(wild rice) 17 - $19^{(30)}$(wild rice) - 20^{8} - 21^{3} - 24^{1} - $25^{(50)}_{10}$ - $26^{(16)c}$ - 27^{hd} - 28^{hd} - $30^{(60)}$ wild rice. $31^{(5)}$ - Concord 1893.

Cd. 5^{hd} Cd. $12^{(8)}$ 1894

Sept. 1^{6} - 3^{4} - 4^{hd} - 7 Several heard flying high at daybreak - 8 do. - 9 Heard flying over Great Meadows at sunset - 11^{1} feeding on wild rice. 24^{1} in grass on Great Meadows. Concord, 1892.

$2^{(2)}$ - $3^{(3)}_{(2)}$ - 4^{2} - 6^{2} - 9^{2} heard - 12 1 heard high in air flying over Nutmeadows at 7.30 A.M. - 13 1 heard at 5 P.M. over Gt. M. - 16 2 heard at 3 + 4 A.M. flying high over Great Meadows Concord. 1893

D. oryzivorus

April 29 Full song twice repeated in air by unseen bird or birds evidently flying high up towards the North. 1893.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

Concord, Mass.

Nests and eggs.

1888. June 8. Upon first landing opposite "the tent" we saw a female Bobolink alight on a tall weed and after looking about for a moment pitch down into the dense grass of a mowing field. Denton ran to the spot and flushed her under his feet and I, following him more slowly, found the nest which contained a full set of six eggs.

Our next landing was opposite Hunt's Pond. We first beat the meadows down river seeing several Bobolinks but finding no nests. Returning D. flushed a female from her nest which was within thirty yards of the boat and less than ten yards from the spot where I found a nest with young last year. Doubtless it was the same bird. This nest was in a very open situation and was in no way concealed. It held five eggs.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May 14 Belmont, Waltham & Watertown. — I heard Bobolinks to-day just beyond the old engine house and on Rock Meadow, in Belmont, & just beyond the Tricky place in Waltham. Bolles reported them yesterday on the Adams place in E. Watertown. They seem to have deserted the corner of School St.* below the Payson place and the brook meadows E. of Belmont. In the latter locality I have not seen them for three or four years, at the former two males were singing in 1886. Distribution.

" 30 Belmont. — One ♂ singing in the fields at the corner of School St.* below the Payson place, two ♂♂ beyond the old engine house, and a fourth in the meadow west of the cold spring on Prospect St. Distribution

Dedham. — Batchelder & Dwight heard and saw more Bobolinks along the Charles River below Dedham to-day than they have seen anywhere in the Belmont-Arlington-Waltham region this spring. Judging by their description these river meadows must be very like those at Concord. Distribution

June 1 Concord. — About the usual number of birds on Great Meadow. On each of two small dry islands covered with ferns, near the middle of this meadow I found a pair which were evidently nesting. On the ridge next the river we found three nests with 5 eggs each. As these nests probably represent the extremes of variation in regard to nesting sites chosen by the birds on this meadow I noted the following details on the spot:

No. 1 was on the crest of the ridge on perfectly dry ground, among short, rather scanty wild grass at immediately at the base of a tuft of Thalictrum the leaves of which

(1889) (Mass.) overspread and concealed it perfectly. The ♀ rose at Nests
(June 1) Concord) least 20 yds. ahead of us and 10 yds. from the nest in our direction showing that she must have left her eggs and run directly towards us before flying. She started in a perfectly natural manner.

No. 2. was behind the ridge on the edge of the meadow where the ground was decidedly damp. It was among royal ferns mixed with a species of Carex both plants small and only partially concealing the eggs which were 5 in number. The bottom of this nest rested on sphagnum which was saturated with water but the nest itself was dry. The ♀ flushed at about 10 yds. & fluttered off slowly simulating lameness. The ♂ sang regularly about 60 yds. away never singing or hovering over the nest.

No 3. was on the river side of the ridge on perfectly dry ground in a dense bed composed wholly of royal ferns which were about six inches high. Those growing about the nest overspread it perfectly with their fronds. The ♀ rose in a natural manner at fully 20 yds. & flew directly off. Eggs 5 in number.

All these nests had the appearance of being sunk in the ground nearly ~~to~~ a level with their rims but close examination showed that with all the bottom rested squarely on the ground and that the rim was raised from 2 to 2½ inches above it and slightly attached to the stems of the surrounding grasses. In short the bird had merely made a hollow in the mat of turf going down to, but not into, the hard ground beneath. The height of the rim of the nest probably represented the height of the stubble left by last season's mowing (done on this ridge with a machine mower). Probably the nest is never really sunk in other than this manner.

Nests sunk in the turf but not in the ground.

As on former occasions I was struck by the admirable cunning of these birds in decoying the intruder away from their nests. ~~Although~~ the day was dark & cloudy with

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

(1889 June 1 *Mass.* *Continued*) *Concord*

Cunning of birds in leading the intruder away from their nests.

almost a gale of wind blowing we found it next to impossible to surprise the ♀ on the nest. During our first beat over ground where at least a dozen pairs were breeding we found only one nest, surprising the bird by emerging suddenly from a belt of trees within 30 yds. of her. Even then she ran fully ten yards *directly towards us* before flying. Late in the day I surprised another by coming on her from behind a ridge. In both these cases the bird rose as if she had been merely feeding. The third nest I found by watching the ♀ who finally alighted directly on it after hovering a moment over it. I ran straight to the spot when she rose within ten yards simulating lameness. Previous to finding it I had watched her & another ♀ several hours during which they had alighted many times but always in places where I could find nothing.

Habits of ♂.

As nearly as I could learn to-day the ♂ sings regularly about 60 to 100 yds. away from the nest. He has singing stations – tufts of rank grass stalks of *Thalictrum* etc. which, judging from the droppings beneath, are much frequented by him. If anyone appears in the meadow he rises and sings on wing a few times. This action warns the ♀ who immediately slips off the eggs and runs 50 to 100 yds. away. When the intruder reaches the spot she rises in a natural manner & the ♂ at once pursues her then returns and skims past singing in his most boisterous manner. Perhaps he alights near you and scolds a little in a thick husky tone. This is all pure deceit. The nest is ~~probably~~ 100 yds. or more away. When you are really near it the cunning bird simulates perfect indifference and never comes about the spot. He has a habit of nodding his head once or twice before singing. When singing on wing

1889 Mass. } (Continued) he carries his head raised high & beats his wings steadily but loosely, his course through the air being perfectly level or non-undulatory. He frequently ends his song by scaling down into a tuft of grass his legs dangling loosely as if broken crying chee-chee-chee. — Song & habits of ♂

June 1 Concord }

As one enters a meadow at this season it is often possible to see all the ♂ Bobolinks which it contains at once, each sitting in the top of a tuft of grass the more distant ones showing as mere specks of black on the green surface. They sometimes sing on fence posts and also, frequently, in the tops of the tallest and densest foliaged trees but the song at its best is given on wing when the bird is rollicking over the meadow where his mate sits on her eggs.

What I am nearly sure is a signal of warning to the sitting ♀ on the part of the ♂ is the beginning of his song cut short at the end of the first ~~three~~. notes. This he almost invariably repeats several times on first discovering the intruder and before rising to sing on wing. These notes, with some stretch of the imagination, may be interpreted as Oh! look out! The song is subject to less variation with different individuals than in almost any other bird of my acquaintance — Signal of warning to sitting ♀ — Uniformity of song

" 3 Wellesley Hills. - Only one (a ♂ singing in mowing field) during a walk of three miles. — Distribution

" 4 Watertown. - A ♂ singing in the field below the Adams barn & next the Fraser place. — "

" 9 Cambridge - One near Beech Island another just beyond Hill's Crossing in Belmont both ♂♂ singing — "

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

1889 Mass.

June 17 Wayland. – A ♀ in mowing field followed me some distance as I walked down the bordering railroad, flitting from post to post of a fence, sometimes alighting on tall weeds, jerking her tail up and back with a quick, nervous motion calling almost incessantly twit, twit, twit, twit-tì-dee-dee the termination sometimes extended to twi-tì-dee-dee-dee & very musical in tone, sounding almost like a song in fact. Evidently the bird had young in the long grass near by. ♂ not seen. ♀ with young. notes of ♀.

" 20 Watertown. – Two pairs on the Adams place both very anxious the ♂♂ calling tshay, tshay the ♀ uttering notes similar to those of the bird observed June 17. Both pairs followed me for about 200 yds. then became indifferent & left. With young

1890

May 19 Belmont, Waltham, Lincoln. – At least thirty males seen or heard during a day's outing in these towns. In fact every suitable meadow contained from one to four or five They are on the Adams & Payson places as usual but seem to have deserted the meadows just east of Belmont. Unusual abundance

1891

Martha's Vineyard. – The farmers here do not know the Bobolink, even by name, but Mr. Howard Norris of Cottage City tells me that he once saw a single male, doubtless a migrant, in Spring on the island. Rarity on Martha's Vineyard

1895 Wolfeboro, N.H.

June 19 Two pairs at least on the Academy grounds. One pair were feeding young in the grass. Both parents came alternately with insects (apparently long, green larvae) alighted first on a maple to reconnoitre, then hovered over the grass trying several different places before alighting. The young were probably out of the nest & scattered ♂ feeds young

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

1898 Mass.

May 10 Concord. Twice at wide intervals this morning in a walk round Ball's Hill I heard the mad song of a Bobolink falling from the sky above followed by the chink notes. At evening the song came again to my ears. On all three occasions the birds were evidently high in air migrating. First arrivals. [Journ.]

June 8 Lancaster. Were common but not exceptionally so. [Journ.]
N.H.

June 14-15 Wolfboro. Only one singing in the Academy fields. [Journ.]

July 2-4 Glendale (in or near), Berkshire Co. Common. [Journ.]

1893 Connecticut

June Saybrook. – Several pairs of Bobolinks are settled for the season and no doubt breeding, on a low, narrow grassy ridge, bordered on one side by the Connecticut River and on the other by extensive salt marshes, just below the railroad bridge that crosses the river at the "Ferry". All but one of the males (there are five or six of them) sing in the normal way. The exception has a song so unique and remarkable that neither Mr. Faxon nor I so much as suspected it came from the Bobolink until we actually saw the bird (a typical looking one) in the act of producing it. It consisted regularly of seven shrill, whistled, precisely similar notes running quickly and evenly up the scale and then without pause (or with but the slightest one) immediately repeated. This is the way I rendered them on the spot in my note book:

A curiously abnormal song

te - te - te - te - te - te · te
te te te te te te te.

We heard this bird in the same place several days in succession always singing in the manner just noted

Massachusetts. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. (No. 1)

1892.

June 8 Concord. There are fewer Bobolinks than in former years I fear. One now goes up and sings on wing, descending towards the meadow with wings set, tail raised slightly, pouring out a flood of song.

July 6 I have heard all the common species which haunt the neighborhood except the Bobolink which seems to have stopped singing within a day or two. Hay cutting has only just begun owing to protracted foul weather I think the young Bobolinks have escaped.

July 14 Bobolinks have apparently relapsed into utter silence save for the autumn call-note which is now constantly heard in the air overhead and which to my ear is distinctly pink, not chink as usually rendered. I saw one flock of seven of these birds this morning circling over a field of oats and early in the afternoon upwards of forty feeding on the seeds of wild grasses in Holden's meadow. There were several old males (apparently in unchanged breeding dress) among them but the majority appeared to be females and young. They must have been unusually successful in rearing their broods this year for continuous bad weather late in June prevented the farmers from cutting any grass to speak of until after July 4th.

Aug 11 Red-winged Blackbirds and Bobolinks in large numbers are now resorting to Mr Keyes's field opposite the house where they seem to find some attraction among the clover and grass which has sprung up since the hay was harvested.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus (No. 2.)

1892.

Aug. 22 Concord. Just before sunset Bobolinks were coming into the Great Meadows in very large numbers I counted fifty individuals in one flock and then did not get all. There were many smaller flocks and the *pink, pink* was a constant sound for fifteen minutes or more. It is evident that Bobolinks seek their roosts much earlier than do most birds The flight had practically ceased this evening before the sun disappeared.

Aug. 28. A flock of fully 100 Bobolinks drifting back and forth over the Great Meadows like a cloud of smoke driven by the wind,

Sept. 3. Bobolinks are diminishing in numbers but a few still linger about the wild rice & *chink* high in air overhead

Sept. 5 Yesterday I heard Bobolinks at frequent intervals most of them high in air and, as I thought migrating. To-day I neither heard nor saw a single bird.

Sept. 7 As daylight strengthened Bobolinks began chinking and I heard them at frequent intervals until the sun rose but not afterwards. One & all seemed to be moving southward at a considerable height.

Sept. 9. In the meadow at the head of this bayou is a large cluster of button bushes What I took to be a flock of Bobolinks—at least thirty birds pitched down in silence from a considerable height and alighted in these bushes as I was passing. I heard Bobolinks chinking further on.

Sept. 24 Concord As I was passing through a belt of uncut grass a Bobolink started a few rods ahead and flew to some bushes where it alighted. I followed & flushed it twice more getting a positive identification each time although, very curiously, the bird did not once utter a sound while flying. I do not remember ever seeing this species so late before.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

Concord, Mass.
April, 29. 1893.

At about 5.30 A. M. I was standing on the hill in front of the Buttricks' when suddenly a burst of Bobolink music came from directly overhead. A moment later the bird sang again in the distance to the northward. Each time the full song was given. I did not see the bird although I looked in every direction & there was nothing to impede the view. It was probably flying high & doubtless migrating at the time. I have never noted the Bobolink here in April before.

Early arrival of the Bob

Concord, Mass.
May, 17. 1898.

Bobolinks are also exceptionally numerous. I have at least thirty [illegible] [illegible] among the [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] this [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] I have seen of late years. This is [illegible] [illegible] the fact that most if not all of the broods of young escaped the mowing machine last year the harvesting of the hay crop being deferred nearly two weeks beyond the usual [illegible].

[illegible]

Concord, Mass.
May, 30. 1898.

Bobolinks are also scarce along the river. I saw & heard only three this morning. The reason is obvious; the high water which prevailed during most of this month discouraged & drove them off to the upland mowing fields.

Bobolinks.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Concord, Mass. Eating wild rice.

1893.

Aug.14. Yesterday I watched some Bobolinks working at the wild rice. They were eating the grain which, on examination, I found soft and milky and barely half grown. The bird would select a stalk that had been bent down by the wind or rain and perching directly beneath its head on some stout upright stem would reach up and pick out grain after grain without moving its foothold. Thus they worked busily but with great deliberation and for the most part in perfect silence but occasionally the chink call would be given and answered by scattered birds. They were difficult to see among the growing reeds. Once I thought I detected a bird eating the withered staminate flowers of the Zizania but I may have been deceived. I am very sure, however, that both Bobolinks and Red-wings eat these flowers early in the season before the grain has formed.

Aug.25. A flock of Blackbirds feeding in the wild rice at Beaver Dam Rapid, comprised fully fifty birds and I heard and saw others elsewhere. If any adult males remain here they are indistinguishable now from the females and young.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Mr.Day says that the Bobolink is seen here regularly in
July 5 to spring arriving about May 18th. He thinks a few pairs breed.
Aug.15. A flock of about 25 (including several old males still in
black and buff) were seen by W.Deane about half-way between
our house and the village on July 21st. Later (on July 22nd
and again on August 10th) I.heard the chink note at Ben Mere
farm: also on Aug.14th & 15th.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

52. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus** (*Linn.*) *Swains.* BOBOLINK.—Apparently not rare at Fort Fairfield. Found in grassy fields and meadows near the river. Not observed at Grand Falls. At Houlton "arrives by the 25th of May, common by June 15." July 2. on our return from Fort Fairfield, Mr. Dwight and I saw them at several places along the St. John River above Fredericton.

Bull. N. C. O. 7, July, 1882, p. 148

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P.Q.
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Bobolink, plentiful in the fields around the mountain.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 75

**Summer Birds of Bras D'Or Region
Cape Breton Id., N.S. J. Dwight, Jr.**

30. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.*

Auk, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 16

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907. p. 78.

180. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** BOBOLINK.— Summer resident, April 19 to September 8; breeds (June 1, 1899).

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

25. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.151

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

21. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.—Common.

Auk, **V. April, 1888.** p.150

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.—Not common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H. Allen

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 78

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olichonyx orizivorus. – Saw only a few. Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.

Heard numbers flying over at night.
Dolichonyx orizivorus. – Aug. 31 Rye Beach, N. H. 1868.

Flock mig. H.Y. In flocks H.Y. a few
Dolichonyx orizivorus, – Aug. 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30 Rye Beach, N. H. 1871.

Night mig. H.Y.
Dolichonyx orizivorus. – July 22; Aug. 19 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N.H. July-August, 1874. ~~W. Faxon.~~
J. A. Allen.

17. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Abundant.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.154

Breezy Point, Warren, N.H.

1895. [illegible] [illegible]

May 18. [illegible] ½ mile [illegible]
[illegible] village.
" 20 ½ North Woodstock } [illegible]
" 20 20? Warren
June 1 ¼ No. Woodstock
[illegible] Pike
" 4 ½ Warren village

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

30. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** BOBOLINK. — Numerous in the meadows of the valley.

by Arthur H. Howell. Auk, XVIII. Oct., 1901, p. 342.

75. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. June 10 16, E. Mass. 1885.

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1886.
34. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. One @ Wachusett House

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Late stay in autumn.

Cambridge, Mass.
Sept. 25, 1882

A single bird seen by Spelman on the dyke in the brick-yard swamp. He flew up from a bed of weeds. The date is a late one.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887
May 8$^{2\bar{o}}_{*}$ - 9^{2} - 10^{1} - 13^{2} - 17^{10} 21^{1} - 23^{10} - 26^{8}
June 2^{15} - 3^{8} - 4$^{6\bar{o}}$ - 6^{4} - 7$^{10}_{*}$ - 12$^{6}_{*}$ - 16$^{10}_{*}$ 17$^{10}_{*}$
July 4$^{20}_{6}$# - 7$^{2}_{*}$ - 9^{1} - 10^{6} - 15^{50}× - 24$^{30}_{\phi}$, 25$^{20}_{\phi}$ - 31^{10}
Aug. *9^{30} - 10^{20} - 13^{50} - 15^{30} - 17^{20}

ϕ ♂ in blackish pl., * singing # young out × flocking. ō changing pl.
Dolichonyx oryzivorus
Mass (Winchendon)

1887
June 25^{1}

Dolichonyx oryzivorus
1888 Bobolink S. W. Denton.

May 10. Heard several between Watertown & Waverly first noted.
June 4. Saw several in the meadows. Have found no nests. Don't know what time they commence building but all seemed to be paired

1889. Dolichonyx oryzivorus Wellesley, Mass.

May. 9 ^{1}heard 14. ^{3}.

S. W. Denton.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.
Lexington, Mass., 1891.

June 4. Discovered nest with 5 eggs.
" 5. 6 eggs. Took the last laid.
" 16. 3 eggs hatched.
" 17. 4 " " (5th did not hatch
" 26. One young left the nest.
" 27. All left the nest.

The young were fed in the grass after leaving nest. ♀ appeared to do most of the work. [A. [illegible]]

118

Arrivals. — May 13

Bob-o-links appeared at Dorchester, Mass.

O.&O. VIII. June. 1883. p. 42.

Notes from Pittsfield Mass.

T. J. Rigney

Bobolinks are here in great numbers and make the meadows ring with their melody. Thrushes, too, are plenty here and in variety.—*T. J. Rigney.*

O.+O. VIII. Aug. 1883. p. 63.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus (Linn.), Bobolink. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O.&O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

29. Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Cy, Mass. June 17-23, '88. W. Faxon

23. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Bobolink.—Abundant.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28 - July 16. W. Faxon

22. Dolichonyx oryzivorus. Bobolink. — Common. Breeds in the Notch as high as 1400 feet above the sea-level.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 100

1901. Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

May – June. Worcester, Mass.

This is a great Bobolink region. Its extensive, intervale mowing fields, covered with luxuriant English grass, are simply alive with the merry birds. A considerable proportion of the males, at least one-half I should say, usually (but not invariably) begin their songs with a plaintive, prolonged note which I have never heard elsewhere & which may be closely rendered by the word quèe-ee. There is a slight interval after this ~~note~~ note before the true song (which is quite normal) begins. The quèe-ee may be heard distinctly at a distance so great that ~~the~~ most of the notes of the song itself are barely if at all audible.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

Fairfield

June 4^{9}_{*} c. Fairfield

" 5^{-1}_{*} 6^{1}_{*} 9^{1}_{-} 10^{1}_{*} 11^{1}_{*} 12^{2}_{*} } Saybrook

" 13^{1}_{*} $14^{8♂♂, 2♀♀}_{*\quad -}$ $15^{15♂♂}_{*}$ $^{1♀}_{-}$

" 16^{1}_{*} 17^{4}_{*} 19^{2}_{*} 20^{1}_{*}

BOB-O-LINKS.—Farmers informed J. M. W. that Bob-o links did not put in an appearance until May 17th, near Norwich, Conn., last year, and but few then.

O. & O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p. 14.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

June 4 $\frac{9}{*}$ c. Fairfield — Fairfield
" 5 $\frac{1}{*}$ 6 $\frac{1}{*}$ 9 $\frac{1}{-}$ 10 $\frac{1}{*}$ 11 $\frac{1}{*}$ 12 $\frac{2}{*}$
" 13 $\frac{1}{*}$ 14 $\frac{8♂♂, 2♀♀}{*}$ 15 $\frac{15♂♂ 1♀}{*}$
" 16 $\frac{1}{*}$ 17 $\frac{4}{*}$ 19 $\frac{2}{*}$ 20 $\frac{1}{*}$ } Saybrook
" 21 $\frac{1}{*}$ — Vernon

Not found at Andover (where it used to breed in numbers [illegible]) & only one seen at Vernon. At Saybrook only two or three were observed in the cultivated grass fields (altho. these seemed admirably adapted to its tastes) and Clark thought that it had well-nigh disappeared (it used to be abundant everywhere he said) but in the brackish marshes on both sides of the Conn. R. at & near its mouth and eastward along the Sound we found it breeding in numbers where I have seldom seen it equalled elsewhere. It was not generally distributed over these marshes but confined strictly to a narrow strip or belt bordering the river & Sound where the ground although wet & sloppy was nevertheless higher than that further back & less subject to flooding. Still the tide often went over it. We could find no nests but they must have been ruined. (A peculiar [illegible] described in another sheet of these notes Saybrook)

BOB-O-LINKS.—Farmers informed J. M. W. that Bob-o-links did not put in an appearance until May 17th, near Norwich, Conn., last year, and but few then.

O. & O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p. 14

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H, Coues

45. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus.** Bobolink.—Three specimens secured.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p.32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C.H, Merriam.

78. **Dolichonyx oryzivorus** (*Linn.*) *Swainson.* Bobolink.—Breeds at suitable places and common enough outside.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p.230

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring

275. Bobolink. Common. Stays here just long enough to breed.

O, &O, XV, June, 1890, p.83

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the Northern Adirondacks [Axton], New York [1901].
May 10 to 15.

Bobolink. Small flock.

E. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p.299.

Undescribed First Plumages, Brewster

109. Dolichonyx oryzivorus.

First plumage. Top and sides of head, with the neck behind, buffy-cinnamon. A post-ocular stripe and two lateral ones on the crown dark-brown; a few of the feathers with lighter edgings. Rest of upper parts, including the tips of the wing-coverts and the outer margins of the primaries and secondaries, brownish-yellow. All the feathers of the interscapular region with broad dark-brown centres. Under parts warm reddish-buff, deepest on breast and throat. A band of faint dusky spots across the breast, and a few nearly obsolete streaks along the sides. From a specimen in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, collected by Mr. C. J. Maynard, at Newtonville, Mass., June 26, 1878. The autumnal plumage of this species seems to be very early acquired.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 42.

ON THE CHANGES OF PLUMAGE IN THE BOBOLINK (*DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS*).

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

THE MARKED seasonal changes which occur in the plumage of the Bobolink have ever been made a prominent fact in the life-history of this well-known bird, but I am not aware that the subject has been studied with a complete series of specimens representing each stage of the bird's plumage as it appears throughout its range. For this reason, perhaps, we may account for the generally accepted statement, that the change in the male from the female-like plumage of winter to the black and yellow costume of spring, occurs without loss of feathers but by a change

be distinguished from birds of the year.

In calling attention now to the main object of this paper, the costumes of the male bird, without at this moment dwelling on his appearance in full nuptial dress, we will first consider the change which follows the close of the breeding season. The bird now undergoes a complete moult, losing his entire plumage even to remiges and rectrices, and acquiring a new dress which at first glance is very similar to that of the bird of the year. Closer examination, however, shows well-marked differences. In the adult bird the feathers of the crown, particularly those of the median line, have larger black areas and are less regularly bordered with brownish: the secondaries are not terminated with a narrow edging of white, and the tertials lack the whitish border which is generally seen on those of the young bird. On the sides and flanks the markings are somewhat heavier but resemble those of the young bird, while the black basal areas on the feathers of the throat and breast are larger and more numerous, in some cases occupying the basal three fourths of the feather,

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Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. **Ruthven Deane.**

D. oryzivorus — has been taken in albinistic plumage.

Bull. N.O.O. 1, April, 1876, p.22

THE AUK:
A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
ORNITHOLOGY.

VOL. X. OCTOBER, 1893. NO. 4.

ON THE CHANGES OF PLUMAGE IN THE BOBOLINK (*DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS*).

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

In a previous number of 'The Auk,'[1] I described, under the above title, the changes which occur in the plumage of the Bobolink, with particular reference to the manner in which the breeding plumage of the male is acquired. This latter point was one on which considerable difference of opinion existed, but the question seemed to be settled by a specimen in the American Museum of Natural History (No. 32,783, H. H. Smith, Corumbà, Matto Grosso, Brazil, March 1, 1886) which showed clearly the character of the spring change of plumage.

This specimen is apparently unique and exhibits in a remarkable degree the extent of a change in color which, in a comparatively short time, occurs solely through fading and a wearing away of the exposed tips of many of the feathers.

When compared with a specimen in which, through these causes, the 'full' or black plumage has been acquired the differences are so great that it is difficult to believe they can have occurred without an actual moult. For this reason the Editors of 'The Auk' have decided to figure the Corumbà specimen and

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[1] Vol. VII, 1890, pp. 120-124.

The Change from Winter to Spring Plumage in the Male Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*).—I have been much interested in Mr. Chapman's articles on the "spring moult" of the Bobolink (Auk, VII, 1893, p. 120; and X, 1893, p. 311), but after reading them I could not help asking myself two questions: Does the adult male Bobolink always have a spring moult except when caged? If so, how can we explain the fact that *in captivity the same change in plumage may take place absolutely without any sign of moulting?*

As I must leave these questions unanswered, let me add a few words about a pet Bobolink I once owned.

The bird was in the usual black breeding plumage when I first had him, but *during the fall there was a complete moult*, and he became the well known Reed-bird of the South. Always having had the impression that the Bobolink must also moult when changing from the winter to the summer dress, I was very much surprised in this case to find no feathers in the cage at any time during the spring, though I looked carefully for them myself day after day. The change in color, however, went steadily on, beginning with the appearance of a black feather here and there, until, having passed through a kind of intermediate 'pie-bald' stage, my bird looked once more as he did when I first had him the previous summer; except that the black was not quite as deep, though very nearly so, nor was the yellowish white so clear as at first. All at once, before the change was complete, he burst into full song, and kept it up until fall, when he moulted, and was again the yellowish brown bird of the preceding autumn.

There was no doubt about the autumnal change being a *true moult* during this or the preceding fall, as the feathers about the cage and the 'pin-feathers' on the bird fully proved, and the absence of any true moult in spring was shown with equal certainty by the absence of these same proofs.

In the autumn I gave my Bobolink to a friend, who only succeeded in keeping him a few weeks; so this was the last of one of the happiest birds it was ever my good fortune to possess.—James Skillen, *Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.*

Auk XI. April, 1894 p. 180

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Phew, phew, phe-phe-phe-phe.
The bird gave this song both sitting & flying or hovering. He had no stance evidently. His plumage was normal but rather dull with the light areas above browner than usual. Another male on the opposite side of the river always began with the same phew, phew but immediately followed with the normal song.

Over!

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.

During its half-year visit the Bobolink sings only in May, June and part of July. Through the remainder of its stay, it has only a single short note. This is of a softly metallic tone, and in late summer and early fall is showered down over the country, and sometimes over the city, and at night, by flocks of the birds passing on their southward way. It is also a characteristic bird-note of the late summer, about wide weedy meadows, where tall Compositæ and other rankly growing plants uphold a rich harvest of seeds.

The song of the Bobolink is one of the first to drop out of the bird-chorus. I have not often heard it in July, and never later than the middle of the month; though where the bird is more common in the breeding season than with me singing doubtless continues later.

Auk, 2, April, 1885. p. 152.

Dolichonyx

"Lowell's Letters" p. 290 Vol I
a rare description of the
Bobolink's song.

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

1893

June 13-20 - Saybrook, Conn.

A Bobolink which was apparently breeding in the marsh on the W. bank of Conn. River near Saybrook Ferry had a song wholly unlike anything that I have ever heard before. It consisted of from 6 to 8 or 9 whistles; the first two were rich and full and resembled the call of the Martin or perhaps that of *Totanus flavipes*; these were in the same key & given rather slowly; the others, uttered quickly and in a rising scale, were run together forming a mellow trill which, save for the rising inflection, reminded especially at a distance not unlike the song of the Swamp Sparrow. The whole may be represented thus

Phew, phew, phe-phe-phe-phe.

The bird gave this song both sitting & flying in hovering. He had no other evidently. His plumage was normal but rather dull with the light areas above browner than usual. Another male on the opposite side of the river always began with the same phew, phew but immediately followed with the usual song

Over!

May, June
t has only
e, and in
country,
the birds
stic bird-
where tall
d a rich

out of the
ever later
d is more
doubtless
52.

Dolichonyx

"Lowell's Letters" p. 290 Vol I

for rare description of the

Bobolink's song."

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Dolichonyx

June 13

Pheu - pheu - phe phe phe
[illegible]
[illegible] at a distance resembles
[illegible] Swamp Sparrow, shortly
[illegible]
heard before

See opposite side of this sheet

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus. BOBOLINK.

During its half-year visit the Bobolink sings only in May, June and part of July. Through the remainder of its stay, it has only a single short note. This is of a softly metallic tone, and in late summer and early fall is showered down over the country, and sometimes over the city, and at night, by flocks of the birds passing on their southward way. It is also a characteristic bird-note of the late summer, about wide weedy meadows, where tall Compositæ and other rankly growing plants uphold a rich harvest of seeds.

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Dolichonyx

"Lowell's Letters" p. 290 Vol I
a rare description of the
Bobolink's song."

Shelburne, N.H. Dolichonyx oryzivorus

1884

July 5. For two days I have been trying to find a Bobolinks nest of which there are plenty on the Androscoggin intervale. The old birds are mostly engaged now in feeding their young but so cunning are they that they invariably refuse to go to the nest when any one is near. If the spot is approached they show much solicitude uttering a complaining tchay and flitting nervously from the top of one tall weed to the next. If ~~the~~ I follow her she will continue to flit on, making a

Mass. (Concord) Dolichonyx oryzivorus ✓

1886 Nesting habits.

June 4 Searched the dry ridge bordering Great Meadows for nests this morning. The birds were numerous for I saw at least twenty. They were apparently not breeding for as I advanced the females would rise from the grass some distance ahead & the males would chase them. I searched each place where a ♀ rose but could find nothing. On thinking it over I suspected that the males gave the alarm as soon as I appeared and that the females at once stole off their nests. It was still and warm

Mass. (Concord) Dolichonyx oryzivorus ✓

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great fuss as if I were approaching the nest whereas all the while she is cunningly leading me away from it. In this manner she will decoy me several hundred yards from the spot and finally fly off. I have tried watching from a distance but this does not succeed as the meadow is perfectly open and the birds will not go to their nests when I am anywhere in sight.

July 15. They are now collecting into small flocks and uttering the clinking note peculiar (or nearly so) to autumn. The ♂'s are still apparently in black & white dress but I have not heard one sing since the 10th.

July 28. A flock of about a hundred on the intervale feeding on oats in the milk & among herds grass. All were in brown plumage. Two young shot retained a portion of the first plumage.

Shelburne, N. H. Dolichonyx oryzivorus

1884

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so I gave up the search for the time.

Returning late in the afternoon the wind was blowing a gale and the meadow grass waving about. I noticed at once that the ♂ Bobolinks were silent if not absent. In less than half an hour I found two nests flushing both the sitting ♀s and almost stepping on them before they fluttered off. The ♂♂ did not give them notice of my approach & they could not hear me until I was close on them.

Both nests were similarly situated - near the middle of the dry ridge in rather short, thin, meadow grass but each well concealed by a frond of meadow rue; I had to search several minutes for one of them. Neither was overarched. Both were deeply sunk in the ground. One had 5 eggs, the other six. The ♀♀ fluttered off a few yards and then took wing.

June 9. Nest 5 eggs far advanced, dry bank bordering meadow among short & velvetty wild grass, moss, & ferns, among & perfectly concealed by the branches & leaves of a tiny blueberry. ♀ sat until nearly trodden on, then skulked off through the grass for several yards before flying.

Mass. (Concord) Dolichonyx oryzivorus

Nests.

JUN 3 1887

Acting on the hint obtained last year I chose this windy, cloudy afternoon to visit the Great Meadows for Bobolink's nests. Beat the dry ridge carefully its entire length and found four nests, three with 6 eggs each, one with 5 eggs. One was perfectly concealed under the broad leaves of a succulent meadow plant (Cedum) two were almost as well hidden beneath meadow rue, the four was in thin short grass not protected from observation in any way. All four were so deeply sunk

PECULIAR NIDIFICATION OF THE BOBOLINK. — During the haying season of 1854, I found in a meadow where I was at work a nest of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) occupying the space between four stalks of a growing narrow dock (*Rumex crispus*). This nest was suspended from four points of its circumference, 90° apart, to the four stalks of the plant which grew from the same root. The bottom of the nest was about six inches above the ground. It was constructed entirely of vegetable material and consisted of two distinctly separate parts. A hemispherical cup, in one piece of coarse but neatly woven cloth, very strong and very light, was fastened to the living, growing supports by strong fibres passing around each stalk above and below a joint and firmly woven into the rim of the cup with some of the longer strings interlacing the sides. Loups passed through the bottom of the cup were attached to diagonal supports. The edge or rim of this cup was about half an inch thick at the points of bearing and about one-fourth of an inch in the quadrants. The texture just below the rim was closely woven and strongly wrought, varying from one-eighth to one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, growing thinner gradually from the edge, and a small space in the lowest part was of open work evidently designed to secure good and certain drainage.

In this hanging basket was an elaborate lining of very soft blades of grass between which and the cup was an elastic padding. The woven cup was about five inches in diameter and five inches deep, the padding about half an inch thick, and the lining about the same thickness. The whole structure, dock and nest, swayed in every passing breeze but the nest was so strongly fastened to the stalks and the plant so securely held by the nest that it would have required a hurricane or tornado to have blown it away.

Twenty-two years afterwards, on the 28th of June, 1876, while mowing in the same meadow I found a similar nest of the Bobolink suspended from four stalks of the same species of plant growing in very nearly the same spot. The two specimens of very unusual and original nidification bore a remarkably strong resemblance and only differed to an appreciable extent in the method of hanging. In the former case — that of 1854 — the stalks grew naturally at the angles of a square; in the latter — that of 1876 — the stalks naturally grew at the angle of a trapezium and were drawn by the ingenious builders to the angles of a square at the points of fastening. The stalk which had to be drawn the farthest from its natural position was stoutly woven into the side of the cup, the weaving material completely covering two joints and the space between them, while in each of the others only one joint was covered and attached simply to the rim. The bottom of this nest was eight inches above the ground and the leaves of the plant overhung the structure forming a very pretty canopy.

From the fact that these two nests were found in the same field and in very nearly if not precisely the same spot and upon the same species of plant, it is probable that the avian architects of 1876 were lineal descendants of the builders of 1854. In these productions of the skill of Bobolinks we have evidences of systematic, consecutive thought; of plans well laid and equally well executed. — ELISHA SLADE, *Somerset, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 6, April, 1881, p. 117-118.

in the ground that their upper edges were flush with the surface. In the sets of 6 eggs the eggs were arranged in two parallel lines thus ⁸₈ The birds in every instance sat very closely only fluttering off at the last moment when I swept my paddle over the nest. They fluttered along a few paces like a young or wounded bird.

Up to the time of finding the third nest I saw nor heard a single ♂. After that the wind died away, the ♂s appeared & began ~~the~~ the abbreviated song (per-pt-er -per per per dink) which they evidently use as a signal of danger. I found only one nest after this but saw one or two ♀s that had taken the warning in time.

The ♂ Bobolink, does not sing much after sundown. Like the Tanager he loves the heat & sunshine

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Peculiar Nidification of the Bobolink. — During the haying season of 1854, I found in a meadow where I was at work a nest of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) occupying the space between four stalks of a growing narrow dock (*Rumex crispus*). This nest was suspended from four points of its circumference, 90° apart, to the four stalks of the plant which grew from the same root. The bottom of the nest was about six inches above the ground. It was constructed entirely of vegetable material and consisted of two distinctly separate parts. A hemispherical cup, in one piece of coarse but neatly woven cloth, very strong and very light, was fastened to the living, growing supports by strong fibres passing around each stalk above and below a joint and firmly woven into the rim of the cup with some of the longer strings interlacing the sides. Loups passed through the bottom of the cup were attached to diagonal supports. The edge or rim of this cup was about half an inch thick at the points of bearing and about one-fourth of an inch in the quadrants. The texture just below the rim was closely woven and strongly wrought, varying from one-eighth to one-sixteenth of an inch in thickness, growing thinner gradually from the edge, and a small space in the lowest part was of open work evidently designed to secure good and certain drainage.

In this hanging basket was an elaborate lining of very soft blades of grass between which and the cup was an elastic padding. The woven cup was about five inches in diameter and five inches deep, the padding about half an inch thick, and the lining about the same thickness. The whole structure, dock and nest, swayed in every passing breeze but the nest was so strongly fastened to the stalks and the plant so securely held by the nest that it would have required a hurricane or tornado to have blown it away.

Twenty-two years afterwards, on the 28th of June, 1876, while mowing in the same meadow I found a similar nest of the Bobolink suspended from four stalks of the same species of plant growing in very nearly the same spot. The two specimens of very unusual and original nidification bore a remarkably strong resemblance and only differed to an appreciable extent in the method of hanging. In the former case — that of 1854 — the stalks grew naturally at the angles of a square; in the latter — that of 1876 — the stalks naturally grew at the angle of a trapezium and were drawn by the ingenious builders to the angles of a square at the points of fastening. The stalk which had to be drawn the farthest from its natural position was stoutly woven into the side of the cup, the weaving material completely covering two joints and the space between them, while in each of the others only one joint was covered and attached simply to the rim. The bottom of this nest was eight inches above the ground and the leaves of the plant overhung the structure forming a very pretty canopy.

From the fact that these two nests were found in the same field and in very nearly if not precisely the same spot and upon the same species of plant, it is probable that the avian architects of 1876 were lineal descendants of the builders of 1854. In these productions of the skill of Bobolinks we have evidences of systematic, consecutive thought; of plans well laid and equally well executed. — Elisha Slade, *Somerset, Mass.*

Bull. N.O.C. 6, April, 1881, p. 117-118.

Nesting of Bobolink, 1888, 1889 and 1890.

June 7, 1888. Five eggs. Incubation well commenced.

June 7, 1888. Six eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 10, 1888. Six eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 11, 1888. Five eggs. Incubation nearly fresh (bloody veining).

June 11, 1888. Four young; one addled egg. Hatched.

June 12, 1888. Three young; two addled eggs. Incubation completed.

June 20, 1888. Five eggs. Incubation just commenced.

June 26, 1888. Four eggs. Incubation just commenced.

Total for 1888, forty-one eggs in eight nests.

June 2, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 3, 1889. Six eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 5, 1889. Four eggs. Incubation fresh.

June 7, 1889. Five young. Incubation completed.

June 7, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 7, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 7, 1889. Five; four young; one egg. Incubation completed.

June 9. 1889. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 10, 1889. Four eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 10, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 13, 1889. Five; three young; two eggs. Incubation completed.

June 18, 1889. Five young. Incubation completed.

Total for 1889, fifty-nine eggs in twelve nests.

June 3, 1890. Seven eggs. Incubation well commenced.

June 3, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation just commencing.

June 3, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 4, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 4, 1890. Four eggs. Left three days; was found on the 1st with the eggs in them.

June 5, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 5, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 5, 1890. Four eggs. Found on the 3d, and contained four fresh eggs at that time.

June 5, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 6. 1890. Five eggs. Incubation well commenced.

June 7, 1890. Six eggs. Incubation advanced.

Total for 1890, fifty-six eggs in eleven nests.

In 1888, one nest contained four; five contained five each; and two contained six each.

In 1889, two nests contained four each; nine contained five each, and one contained six.

In 1890, two nests contained four each; seven contained five each; one contained six, and one contained seven. *E. G. Tabor.*

Meridian, N. Y.

O.&O, 15, ~~Oct, 1890, p,~~ 149.

June 2, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 3, 1889. Six eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 5, 1889. Four eggs. Incubation fresh.

June 7, 1889. Five young. Incubation completed.

June 7, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 7, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 7, 1889. Five; four young; one egg. Incubation completed.

June 9. 1889. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 10, 1889. Four eggs. Incubation advanced.

June 10, 1889. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 13, 1889. Five; three young; two eggs. Incubation completed.

June 18, 1889. Five young. Incubation completed.

Total for 1889, fifty-nine eggs in twelve nests.

June 3, 1890. Seven eggs. Incubation well commenced.

June 3, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation just commencing.

June 3, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 4, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

June 4, 1890. Four eggs. Left three days; was found on the 1st with the eggs in them.

June 5, 1890. Five eggs. Incubation commenced.

A Series of Eggs of the Bobolink.

In his *Manual of North American Birds*, page 366, Mr. Ridgway falls into the strange error of stating that the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) lays from two to five eggs, whereas any number less than four would be an incomplete set, and six and seven not unusual.

Considering how very common the birds are it is astonishing how hard it is to find their eggs, and to this fact must be ascribed their comparative scarcity in collections. They vary greatly in color and markings.

Set I. June 10, 1888. Cayuga County, N.Y. Nest of fine, dry grass, on ground in meadow. Five eggs, incubation commenced. Bluish-gray, spotted and veined with burnt umber and sepia. Some of the spots are large, and there are more of them at the larger ends than on any other part of the eggs. There are a few spots of olive-gray also: .88 x .65; .85 x .65; .86 x .64; .86 x .63; .86 x .66.

Set II. June 7, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of dried grasses on ground, in a clump of weeds. Six eggs, incubation begun. Bluish-gray, spotted with burnt umber and clove brown, the markings being heavier at the larger ends: .87 x .60; .84 x .61; .77 x .58; .76 x .58; .77 x .59; .79 x .57.

Set III. June 13, 1887. Farmington, Me., Nest of fine grass, in a field of tall grass at the foot of a bunch of ferns. Six eggs, incubation advanced. Bluish-gray, speckled and spotted with burnt umber. Some of the spots are large, and most of them are at the larger ends: .82 x .60; .79 x .60; .77 x .59; .74 x .59; .75 x .57; .81 x .60.

Set IV. June 11, 1888. Galewood, Ill. Nest of grass, in wagon rut caused by passage over prairie while in boggy condition in early spring. Seven eggs, incubation advanced. Bluish-white, spotted and veined with bistre and seal brown: .82 x .65; 83 x .65; .81 x 63; .84 x .64; .80 x .65; .81 x .65; .84 x .68.

Set V. June 13, 1879. Hyde Park, Ontario. Nest of straws and grass on the ground, in a meadow. Six eggs, incubation advanced. Drab-gray, speckled with drab, and marked with large spots of sepia; nearly all of the latter being at the larger ends: .78 x .62; .76 x .63; .79 x .63; .76 x .63: .77 x 64; .78 x .63.

Set VI. June 15, 1885. Farmington, Me. Nest made entirely of grass, and placed on the ground. Five eggs, fresh. Bluish-gray. spotted with olive gray, Vandyke brown, and seal brown. The markings are principally confined to the larger ends: .90 x .64; .86 x .63; .83 x .62; .88 x .64; .90 x .64.

Set VII. June 20, 1888. Cayuga County, N.Y. Nest of dry grass, on ground in clover meadow. Five eggs, incubation advanced. Gray, with a brownish tinge, spotted with drab-gray, and large blotches of chestnut: .89 x .66; .88 x .66; .87 x .63; .90 x .66; .92 x .65.

Set VIII. May 15, 1887. Erie County, N.Y. Nest of grass, on ground in open field. Five eggs, incubation commenced. Brownish-gray, spotted with chestnut and russet: .81 x .63; .86 x .61; .79 x .62; .79 x .64; .85 x .61.

Set IX. May 30, 1884. Washington County, N.Y. Nest on ground, under a bunch of grass. Five eggs, incubation commenced. Ecru-drab, spotted with drab-gray and chestnut: .85 x .63; .80 x .62. .86 x .63; .81 x .62; .80 x .59.

Set X. June 16, 1888. Cayuga County, N.Y. Nest a few dry blades of grass, on the ground, in a meadow. Four eggs. Grayish, with a tinge of blue, mottled with drab gray, and spotted with chestnut and sepia: .87 x .65; .89 x .67; 88 x .63; .84 x .65.

Set XI. June 26, 1888. Cayuga County, N.Y. Nest of dry grass, on ground in meadow. Four eggs. Bluish-gray, heavily spotted with chestnut: .90 x .65; 88 x .65; .88 x .66; .88 x .65.

Set XII. June 2, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of dry grass, on ground. Five eggs, fresh. Bluish-gray, spotted with chestnut, much more heavily at the larger ends: .78 x .65; .80 x .65; .78 x .65; .79 x .65; .81 x .65.

Set XIII. June 2, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of dried grass, in a slight depression of the ground. Five eggs, fresh. Drab-gray, heavily spotted with burnt umber, especially at the larger ends: .93 x .63; .93 x .63; .89 x .63; .89 x .62; .92 x .60.

Set XIV. May 30, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of grass, on ground, in a depression made by a horse's hoof. Six eggs, fresh. Bluish-gray, very heavily spotted with drab-gray, and burnt umber. The markings are heaviest near the larger ends: .84 x .64; .88 x .64; .88 x .64; .87 x .61; .89 x .63; .84 x .63.

Set XV. June 3, 1883. Bristol County, Mass. Nest of grass, in a hollow in the ground in large meadow. Five eggs, incubation begun. Bluish-gray, spotted with drab-gray and sepia. All the spots of the latter color are near the larger ends: .82 x .66; .82 x .65; .80 x .66; .82 x .65; .81 x .65.

Set XVI. June 10, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest on ground, in vacant lot on border of town. Six eggs, incubation begun. The ground color varies from drab to fawn color, and the markings consist of spots and cloudings of burnt umber and sepia; dispersed over the surface, but heaviest at the larger ends: .91 x .64; .89 x .64; .88 x .64; .84 x .60; .87 x .61; .84 x .64.

Set XVII. June 2, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of grass, in a depression in the ground. Six eggs, incubation slight. The ground color varies from grayish to fawn, and the markings consist of spots of Vandyke brown, sepia and olive-gray, most of them being at the larger ends: .87 x .62; .88 x .63; .86 x .61; .85 x .61; .88 x .63; .84 x .59.

Set XVIII. June 15, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of grass, on ground, in a clump of weeds. Seven eggs, incubation commenced. Drab-gray, very heavily spotted and blotched (and with a few veins also) with sepia and burnt umber: .84 x .61; .88 x .61; .83 x .61; .86 x .62; .86 x .61; .86 x .63; .86 x .61.

Set XIX. June 3, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of dried grass, in a tussock of grass. Six eggs, incubation advanced. The ground color is bluish-gray, but this is so closely spotted and clouded with burnt umber that it is almost hidden by the latter color. Near the larger ends the markings are heavier: .90 x .64; .87 x .63; .86 x .64; .87 x .65; .85 x .64; .78 x .61.

Set XX. May 20, 1888. Austin, Ill. Nest of dried grass, in a wagon rut on prairie, south of the town. Six eggs, incubation slight. Bluish-gray, heavily spotted and clouded, especially at the larger ends, with burnt umber: .85 x .62; .85 x .61; .83 x .61; .88 x .61; .86 x .61.

A peculiarity of the markings of the eggs of this species is that they are not sharply defined at the edges. They have a blurred appearance — something like a spot of water color that has been wet and has run. *J. P. N.*

O. & O, 15. July. 1890. p. 100-101.

How to Find the Nest of the Bobolink.

The nest of the Bobolink will remain undiscovered until you know how to find it. I have had much experience with this bird, and I never found its nest until I thoroughly understood its habits.

Last year I spent part of the spring at Amherst, Mass. In one of my walks I discovered several fields where Bobolinks were breeding. I immediately set to work to discover their nests. After flushing several birds and searching over a radius of fifty or sixty feet from their point of flight I had to own up defeated. I tried this for a week, but no nest rewarded my efforts and I decided to practise new methods.

I had noticed that ninety-nine times out of a hundred the bird flushed was not on the nest, but simply feeding, and when by accident I flushed one from the nest she invariably rose quite a distance off. As I would approach these fields the birds (*mostly males*) would rise in all directions and alight on the nearest fences. After observing these facts I employed my new tactics.

Rising early the next morning I reached the fields in good time. Starting from one corner I ran all over the field shouting as loudly as possible. Of course a perfect swarm of Bobolinks flew up, and after scolding over my head for a moment flew away out of sight. I now had the whole field to myself. In the centre grew a large, solitary maple tree. Into this I immediately climbed and began to watch. After waiting about an hour I saw a single female Bobolink flying cautiously over the field: seeing nothing and believing all safe she suddenly stopped and dropped swiftly downwards into the grass. I marked the spot with my eye and, descending without noise, I walked slowly and softly toward the place I had marked.

Whirr-rr-rr! Up she flew, and I, stooping over, saw a sweet little nest with six eggs directly beneath my eyes.

I practised this method continually and it seldom failed. If there be no natural cover, build a small cylindrical brush blind with orifices through the side for seeing; but do not fail to cover the top, that no inquisitive Bobolink can fly overhead and peer in.

R. H. White, Jr.

Boston, Mass.

O. & O. Vol. 17, April 1892 p. 56

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt. Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Collected June 1st. The nest was well hidden in the tall grass, and contained seven fresh eggs. I flushed the old bird while driving through the meadow, and several times that I frightened her off she rose up and flew across the meadow, without trying in any way to decoy me away from her eggs.

O. & O. XIV. Oct. 1889 p150

Runt Egg of Bobolink.

A remarkable runt egg of the Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) was found June 10, 1887, at Damariscotta, Maine, in a nest containing six other ordinary sized eggs of this bird. The runt measures .53 x .50, and is almost round. In coloration it resembles others in the set, but when it is remembered that the average size is about .84 x .65, it will be seen how very small this egg is. *J. P. N.*

O&O, XVI, March, 1891, p. 42.

Dolichonyx orizivorus

Flycatching –

Concord, Mass. June 19, 1878

At sunset, over "Great Meadows", dozens of Bobolinks were poising high in air catching insects. Their motions were precisely similar to those of Cedar Birds when similarly engaged. After spending several minutes on wing they would return to the ground or perch on some tree-top; then after a brief rest wing their way upward again. Among them were several & *Agelæus phœniceus* occupied in like manner. One of the Bobolinks (a ♀) was evidently getting this food for her young. The latter were apparently scattered in the grass for she regularly descended to four

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The Bobolink, formerly very abundant in this locality, has hardly made an appearance the present season. I have seen but two or three pairs during the entire Summer, where previously from seventy-five to one hundred pairs have nested. Their non-appearance has caused me to keep a sharp lookout for them, and in many meadows where they have been very common, not a single bird could be seen this season. What can have caused them to desert their old breeding grounds?—*C. O. Tracy, Taftsville, Vt.*

[We have had an article in type for two months on this subject, but the figures were given from memory and we were not sure of them, so the matter lays over until we have time. The reason is patent, however, to those living on the New Jersey marshes and the Delaware river and further South.—Ed.]

O.&O. VII. Nov. 1882. p. 173

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

June 25-30, 1889.

Ashby ---Common and generally distributed throughout the farming country, one or two pairs nesting in nearly every ~~suitable~~ timothy field of English grass. Wes saw none in any of the damp meadows. On June 29th I observed a male feeding young which were scattered about in a field of tall grass. After getting a supply of food which could be plainly seen in his bill, he would fly about over the field, at the height of 30 or 40 feet, quivering his wings rapidly precisely as when in the act of singing on wing. Sometimes he would circle in this way for several minutes, occasionally poising over one spot and scaling down nearly to the ~~grass~~ ground would would rise again and resume his peculiar flight. After several failures ~~of this kind~~ he would at last discover the young bird of which he was in search and would disappear in the grass for a minute or two while feeding it. We observed that he visited different portions of the field at different times, showing that the young were scattered about. It seemed remarkable that he could find them under such conditions.

different spots in succession, always with her bill filled with insects.

Although I marked her carefully and went directly to several of the spots where she alighted I could not find the young, but her demonstrations convinced me that they were hidden in the grass.

When returning to the spot she usually circled once or twice as if locating the exact place, then pitched with closed wings. Whether or not the young are always fed in this manner I cannot now say.

The Bobolink, formerly very abundant in this locality, has hardly made an appearance the present season. I have seen but two or three pairs during the entire Summer, where previously from seventy-five to one hundred pairs have nested. Their non-appearance has caused me to keep a sharp lookout for them, and in many meadows where they have been very common, not a single bird could be seen this season. What can have caused them to desert their old breeding grounds?—*C. O. Tracy, Taftsville, Vt.*

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O.&O. VII. Nov. 1882. p. 173

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

Dolichonyx oryzivorus

June 25-30, 1889.

Ashby ---Common and generally distributed throughout the farming country, one or two pairs nesting in nearly every ~~suitable~~ extensive field of English grass. We saw none in any of the damp meadows. On June 29th I observed a male feeding young which were scattered about in a field of tall grass. After getting a supply of food which could be plainly seen in his bill, he would fly about over the field, at the height of 30 or 40 feet, quivering his wings rapidly precisely as when in the act of singing on wing. Sometimes he would circle in this way for several minutes, occasionally poising over one spot and scaling down nearly to the ~~grass~~ ground would rise again and resume his peculiar flight. After several failures ~~of this kind~~ he would at last discover the young bird of which he was in search and would disappear in the grass for a minute or two while feeding it. We observed that he visited different portions of the field at different times, showing that the young were scattered about. It seemed remarkable that he could find them under such conditions.

~~common, and restricted to the cultivated valleys. It is said to be most numerous about places where bees are kept.~~

~~25. **Myiarchus crinitus.** CRESTED FLYCATCHER.—Of universal dispersion throughout the region; common.~~

~~26. **Sayornis phœbe.** PHŒBE.—About the town of Chester, I have never met with the Phœbe during the month of June. In my wagon tour across the country it was first encountered, June 5, at Fair Forest, five miles west of Spartanburgh. On the same day its loud cries were heard at the South Fork of Tiger River, also in Spartanburgh County. June 4, 1888, a pair were found established at a small mill-pond midway between the villages of Easley and Pickens. At Mt. Pinnacle, it is common in the vicinage of water, ranging up to about 2500 feet. Back on the heights, sheltered situations in the walls of rock are frequently selected as nesting places. Young birds, just ready to leave the nest, were seen as late as June 23 in 1887.~~

~~27. **Contopus virens.** WOOD PEWEE.—Conspicuously common everywhere in the woods.~~

~~28. **Empidonax acadicus.** ACADIAN FLYCATCHER.—Most widely dispersed at the lower levels. Along the larger streams it reaches a higher elevation than elsewhere in the mountains. On the north fork of the Oolenoy, near the High-low Gap, it was common at 2500 feet, the highest point at which the species was observed.~~

~~(*To be continued.*)~~

ON THE WINTER DISTRIBUTION OF THE BOBOLINK (*DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS*) WITH REMARKS ON ITS ROUTES OF MIGRATION.

BY FRANK M. CHAPMAN.

AMONG our summer resident land birds the Bobolink is in its migrations remarkable for two things; first, the extent of its wanderings during the winter; second, the comparatively late date at which its spring migration is completed. These are both well-known facts, and I shall here simply endeavor to bring forward and arrange the records on which they are based, adding some new data furnished by an examination of the material in the American Museum of Natural History. It is to be regretted that a large proportion of the extra-limital records consist merely of mention of the bird's name and the locality of its

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1056. *Ravages of Rice-Birds.* By Hon. Warner Miller. *Congressional Record*, 49th Congress, June 11, 1886, p. 5747.—A loss of $6.87 per acre caused by the Rice Birds to the rice crop, and the total annual loss to one plantation is estimated at $8,250.

687. *Bobolinks.* Editorial. *Ibid.*, p. 14.—On their scarcity in Connecticut, and their wholesale destruction by gunners along the Delaware and southward in the fall. 1,000,000 Rails and Bobolinks killed near the mouth of the Delaware "during the month of September alone." O. & O. Vol. VIII

1247. *Economic Ornithology.* *Ibid.*, No. 18, Oct. 30, p. 415.—On the work of the Division of Economic Ornithology, Dept. of Agriculture, in procuring data concerning the relations to man of *Passer domesticus* and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.* American Field. XXVI

1164. [*Disappearance of*] *the Bobolink* [*in Central New York.*] By Portsa. *Ibid.*, No. 1, July 29, p. 4 For. & Stream. Vol. XXVII

433. *The Bobolink.* By C. O. Tracy. *Ibid.*, p. 173.—Notes decrease of at Taftsville, Vt. O. & O. Vol. VII

1159. *Disappearance of the Bobolink* [*at Springfield, Mass.*]. By E. H. Lathrop. *Ibid.*, No. 26, July 22, p. 507. For. & Stream. Vol. XXVI

1182. *That Thieving Rice Bird.* By Chas. F. Amery. *Ibid.*, No. 15, Nov. 4, pp. 283, 284.—On its probable utility as well as destructiveness. For. & Stream. Vol. XXVII

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capture without giving the data of its occurrence, thus rendering impossible a satisfactory study of its migration or an accurate knowledge of the area it inhabits during the winter.

In the neighborhood of New York City the Bobolink commences its southern migration in July, great numbers flocking at this season in the wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*) marshes, and here many remain until early October, at which date their less tardy comrades have already reached the island of Jamaica. From Dr. Merriam's report* we learn that our bird, now a Rice-bird, appears in the rice fields of South Carolina and Georgia from August 15 to 21, and here, apparently content with their surroundings, they remain for several weeks without making further advance. In Cuba Gundlach† records their arrival in September in immense flocks, which remain only for a short time and then continue their journey southward.

Now appears an interesting question concerning their further line of flight. Three routes are open to them; (1) they may go to the westward, following the Cuban coast, thence, crossing to Cozumel and Yucatan, pursue their migration along the Central American coast to Panama, etc.; (2) they may go to the eastward through Hayti, San Domingo, and Porto Rico, and thence southward through the Windward Islands; or (3) they may strike out boldly and take the more direct course, crossing the sea to Jamaica and then in one extended flight reach the mainland of northern South America. An examination of the published records of the bird's occurrence shows that all three routes are followed to a greater or less extent, but it is apparent that comparatively few birds go as far east as the Windward Chain, while perhaps as many go through Jamaica as pass down the Central American coast. The records, however, from the last-named region are too brief to permit of satisfactory conclusions being drawn from them, and I merely present them as they stand. From Cozumel the Bobolink is recorded by Salvin,‡ who also states§ that many examples were taken by Gaumer in Yucatan and on the islands off the east coast of Honduras. From Honduras we also have another record by the same author,* to which I will refer later, and we find the species included by Zeledon† in his list of the birds of Costa Rica. Swainson's‡ record from the highlands of Mexico, which probably refers to the western race, *D. o. albinucha*, completes the Mexican and Central American records with which I am familiar.

Turning now to the second route, leading through the Windward Islands, we find that from Hayti, San Domingo, or Porto Rico we have as yet no notice of the bird's appearance. Our first record, therefore, is from the small island of Sombrero in the Virgin group, where Lawrence§ records it, and in the Catalogue of the British Museum‖ a specimen is cited from Nevis; both records are without data, but there is a specimen in the American Museum labelled, "Sombrero, Sep. 17, 1862, Julien," on which the first was probably based. From Guadeloupe and Martinique the bird is given by L'Herminier,¶ and this completes the Windward Island records until we come to the last of the chain, Grenada. From this island we have some very welcome and valuable information by Wells,** who during three years' observations had met with the species on only one occasion, when he captured one from a flock of five birds. Reference to this specimen in the American Museum collection shows it to have been taken October 1, 1885.

Passing now to a consideration of the data from the third, or last route mentioned, we find that great numbers of birds select this more direct line of migration. After leaving the island of Cuba the birds' first resting place would be the Caymans, distant about one hundred and seventy-five miles. Mr. Cory writes me that his record of their occurrence on Little Cayman†† is based on two specimens, a male taken April 29, and a female taken April 30, and while it is probable that they also visit these islands in the fall, we may presume that the greater numbers follow the Cuban coast to at least Cape Cruz, or to a point directly north of

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* Dept. of Agriculture, 1886. Report of the Ornithologist and Mammalogist, pp. 248-249.

† Journal für Ornithologie, 1874, p. 129.

‡ Ibis, 1885, p. 191.

§ Biologia Centrali-Americana, Aves, p. 448.

* Ibis, 1866, p. 194.

† Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., VIII, 1885, p. 107.

‡ Phil. Mag., New Ser., I, p. 435.

§ Ann. N. Y. Lyc., 1864, p. 99.

‖ Cat. Brit. Mus., XI, p. 332.

¶ *Cf.* Lawrence, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., I, 1878, p. 450.

** Ibid., IX, 1886, p. 616.

†† Auk, VI, 1889, p. 31.

1056. *Ravages of Rice-Birds.* By Hon. Warner Miller. *Congressional Record*, 49th Congress, June 11, 1886, p. 5747.—A loss of $6.87 per acre caused by the Rice Birds to the rice crop, and the total annual loss to one plantation is estimated at $8,250.

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1247. *Economic Ornithology.* *Ibid.*, No. 18, Oct. 30, p. 415.—On the work of the Division of Economic Ornithology, Dept. of Agriculture, in procuring data concerning the relations to man of *Passer domesticus* and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.* American Field. XXVI

1164. [*Disappearance of*] *the Bobolink* [*in Central New York.*] By Portsa. *Ibid.*, No. 1, July 29, p. 4 For. & Stream. Vol. XXVII

433. *The Bobolink.* By C. O. Tracy. *Ibid.*, p. 173.—Notes decrease of at Taftsville, Vt. O. & O. Vol. VII

1159. *Disappearance of the Bobolink* [*at Springfield, Mass.*]. By E. H. Lathrop. *Ibid.*, No. 26, July 22, p. 507. For. & Stream. Vol. XXVI

1182. *That Thieving Rice Bird.* By Chas. F. Amery. *Ibid.*, No. 15, Nov. 4, pp. 283, 284.—On its probable utility as well as destructiveness. For. & Stream. Vol. XXVII

Jamaica, distant now only eighty miles, nearer indeed than are the Caymans from this island.

The Jamaican records are, in comparison to many of those already cited, detailed and exceedingly satisfactory; Gosse[*] reports the arrival in October of vast numbers of Bobolinks which remain until early November. They feed on the seeds of the 'guinea grass,' are called 'Butter-birds,' and their flesh is highly esteemed. March's[†] notes coincide with those of Gosse, but he says the birds remain only for a few days. There is a specimen in the American Museum taken by this collector labelled "Spanish Town, ♂ Sep. 25, 1865." A further Jamaican record of a female taken in October, is given by Sclater.[‡]

After leaving Jamaica the route, considered as a regular highway of migration, is perhaps the most interesting and remarkable of any chosen by our migratory land birds, for at no other time during their entire journey from north to south, or *vice versa*, are they necessarily so far from land, unless driven from their course by storms or adverse winds. The South American coast is now distant four hundred miles, the way unmarked by islet, shoal, or reef. This is to the south; to the southwest, leading to the Costa Rican coast, are two or three small reefs or islands which may tempt some of our birds to follow this course while others take the more direct route to South America. Nor can we doubt their ability to perform without resting this more extended flight, for Darwin[§] found a Bobolink in the Galapagoes, distant nearly six hundred miles from the nearest mainland. Further, the records from northern South America apparently indicate that some birds appear directly upon the coast instead of entering this country by way of Panama or Trinidad. Commencing at the westward these records are as follows: In the British Museum Catalogue[‖] specimens are cited from Chepo and Paraiso on Panama; Sclater[¶] mentions a specimen from Sta. Martha, and referring again to the British Museum Catalogue, we find specimens mentioned from Caracas and Cayenne. Salvin[**]

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[*] Birds of Jamaica, 1847, p. 229.

[†] Proc. Phil. Acad. Sc., 1863, p. 299.

[‡] P. Z. S., 1861, p. 74.

[§] Voyage of the Beagle, 1841, Vol. III, p. 106.

[‖] Cat. Brit. Mus., XI, p. 332.

[¶] Cat. Am. Birds, 1862, p. 134.

[**] Ibis, 1885, p. 218.

gives the bird from British Guiana and this, with the Cayenne record, seems to form the eastern limit of its range, there being, as far as I know, no records for eastern Brazil or the lower Amazon, while Darwin's record, already referred to, of a specimen taken in October, 1835, on James Island in the Galapagoes, is the only one with which I am familiar from west of the Andes. Indeed our bird's further wanderings seem now to be largely confined to the eastern slope of this range of mountains and the head waters of the Amazon, until it reaches what may be its true winter quarters in southern or southwestern Brazil. Proceeding with our records, we find a specimen mentioned by Sclater[*] from Merida, about forty miles from the coast in Venezuela; there is a specimen in the British Museum[†] from Bogota, and Sclater and Salvin[‡] mention its occurrence at Antioquia. Sclater[§] also gives it from the Rio Napo, and there are two specimens from this locality in the American Museum collection, both adult males in spring plumage. Cassin[‖] cites a specimen from the Rio Negro, and in the British Museum Catalogue a specimen is mentioned from the Rio Javari in eastern Ecuador. All these records are absolutely without data and we may therefore welcome an exceedingly important and interesting note by Berlepsch,[¶] who records the capture by Garlepp, of an adult male in fresh and unworn plumage, at Tonantins on the upper Amazon, on May 6, 1884, and also, in the same locality, of a second specimen in female plumage but without a label. From Paucotambo, in southern Peru, we have a record by Sclater,[**] and the same author, in his Catalogue,[††] mentions a specimen from Bolivia. In the American Museum there is an adult male, taken March 1, 1886, by Smith at Corumba Matto Grasso, while Natterer[‡‡] observed it in the same Province in November. This collector also found it on the Madeira in November; at Maribitanas noted a single one on April 4, and on the 13th saw a great flock of these birds in black plumage.

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[*] P. Z. S., 1870, p. 781.

[†] Cat. Brit. Mus., XI, p. 332.

[‡] P.Z.S., 1879, p. 509.

[§] Ibid., 1858, p. 72.

[‖] Proc. Phil. Acad. Sc., 1866, p. 16.

[¶] Journal für Ornithologie, 1889, p. 99.

[**] P.Z.S., 1876, p. 16.

[††] Cat. Birds, 1862, p. 134.

[‡‡] *Cf.* Pelzeln, Orn. Brazil, iii, p. 199.

1056. *Ravages of Rice-Birds.* By Hon. Warner Miller. *Congressional Record*, 49th Congress, June 11, 1886, p. 5747.—A loss of $6.87 per acre caused by the Rice Birds to the rice crop, and the total annual loss to one plantation is estimated at $8,250.

687. *Bobolinks.* Editorial. *Ibid.*, p. 14.—On their scarcity in Connecticut, and their wholesale destruction by gunners along the Delaware and southward in the fall. 1,000,000 Rails and Bobolinks killed near the mouth of the Delaware "during the month of September alone." O. & O. Vol. VIII

1247. *Economic Ornithology.* *Ibid.*, No. 18, Oct. 30, p. 415.—On the work of the Division of Economic Ornithology, Dept. of Agriculture, in procuring data concerning the relations to man of *Passer domesticus* and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.* American Field. XXVI

1164. [*Disappearance of*] *the Bobolink* [*in Central New York.*] By Portsa. *Ibid.*, No. 1, July 29, p. 4 For. & Stream. Vol. XXVII

433. *The Bobolink.* By C. O. Tracy. *Ibid.*, p. 173.—Notes decrease of at Taftsville, Vt. O. & O. Vol. VII

1159. *Disappearance of the Bobolink* [*at Springfield, Mass.*]. By E. H. Lathrop. *Ibid.*, No. 26, July 22, p. 507. For. & Stream. Vol. XXVI

1182. *That Thieving Rice Bird.* By Chas. F. Amery. *Ibid.*, No. 15, Nov. 4, pp. 283, 284.—On its probable utility as well as destructiveness. For. & Stream. Vol. XXVII

Cassin's* mention of a specimen taken by Page on the La Plata, marks the southern limit of our bird's distribution and concludes the South American records with which I am acquainted. On the return migration we have comparatively few data to assist us; those relating to South America, which I have already presented, apparently indicate that the journey is commenced early in April, but that some individuals linger until May, and on the 20th of that month Salvin, as before mentioned, found a pair on the coast of Honduras. Gosse† says they return to Jamaica in April, but stay only a short time, and this record renders it probable that the line of flight chosen in the fall is simply retraced in the spring. Gundlach‡ reports their arrival in Cuba in May, and says they remain only a few days, just how many is not stated, but he elsewhere says§ they are present when the last of the "Sylvicolidæ" depart.

We might now suppose that the southern coast of Florida would prove the sole entering port to the eastern United States; probably the larger number of birds do choose this route, but others pass northwards through the Bahamas, where they are true transients, scarcely pausing to rest in their journey. In the American Museum there is a male, collected on Andros Island by C. J. Maynard, April 25, and labelled by this collector as the "first of the migration." At Nassau on New Providence, Bryant‖ first notes their appearance May 6, when he saw a number of flocks flying to the westward, and on May 7 the country was filled with them, all being males. Numerous flocks continued to arrive May 8; on the 9th many females were killed; on the 10th only a few were observed, and May 11, they had entirely disappeared.

It now only remains to call attention to the bird's stay in localities far south of their southern breeding limits where, tempted by an abundance of food, they linger to an unusually late date. At Gainesville, Florida,¶ I found both sexes in great numbers, feeding in the oat-fields as late as May 25, and we are familiar with

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* Proc. Phil. Acad. Sc., 1866, p. 16.
† Birds Jamaica, 1847, p. 229.
‡ Journal für Ornithologie, 1874, p. 129.
§ Ibid., 1872, p. 419.
‖ Proc. Bost. Soc., VII, 1859, p. 119.
¶ Auk, V, 1888, p. 272.

Dr. Merriam's* records from the rice fields of South Carolina and Georgia, which the birds frequent until May 29, a date at which we generally consider the migration to be nearly completed and when their earlier comrades are already well established in their summer housekeeping.

Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 39-45

1056. *Ravages of Rice-Birds.* By Hon. Warner Miller. *Congressional Record*, 49th Congress, June 11, 1886, p. 5747.—A loss of $6.87 per acre caused by the Rice Birds to the rice crop, and the total annual loss to one plantation is estimated at $8,250.

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1247. *Economic Ornithology.* *Ibid.*, No. 18, Oct. 30, p. 415.—On the work of the Division of Economic Ornithology, Dept. of Agriculture, in procuring data concerning the relations to man of *Passer domesticus* and *Dolichonyx oryzivorus.* American Field. XXVI

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O.&O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p.14

Bob-o-links.—In our long rides the past Spring we did not see ten specimens. Last Fall we clipped a piece from a Philadelphia paper apparently written by some Bohemian more careful than the rest. After describing all the methods of taking them, and by whom he estimated the destruction of Reed Birds and Rail from Bombay Hook to the mouth of the Deleware River at 1,000,000 during the month of September alone, and the number of gunners increase each year, while of necessity the number of the Bobolinks are becoming reduced, and this destruction is on the first section of their flight alone, while they have to run the gauntlet from the Delaware to their extreme southern destination, through the Carolinas to the West Indies, as the "Rice" and "Butter Bird." On their return in the Spring the trapper lays in wait and takes large quantities with the net, for which they usually get about $3. per dozen alive. It would seem as if the time was not far distant when our cheerful Bobolink would be a much rarer bird than at present, as no law can reach such wholesale destruction through so many different States.

50. *The Reed Bird* [*Dolichonyx oryzivora*]. By A. C. Waddell. *Ibid.*, X, p. 135. — A short notice of its habits, and reference to its qualities for the table. The wasteful manner in which these birds are sacrificed is evinced by the following: "As they rise in immense flocks and wheel in circuits round the fields, a discharge of both barrels, loaded with No. 12 shot, into their midst, will frequently bring down fifty or more; but three quarters are lost, as they fall in the thick mass of growing rice, where the water is from three to four feet deep; those that are found being those that fall near the edges or on the banks."

Chicago Field

Molothrus
ater

Molothrus ater.

1889

April Cd. 11^{2} – C. $26^{1♂}$ – Cd. $30^{(6)}$ 1889. Cd. 6② – C. 8^{1}✻ – Cd. 9^{2} – B. 10⑧ – C. 11^{2}✻ – B. 14⑤ – B. 16^{5} – B. 17^{5} – B. 19^{4} – C. 21^{1} – Way 26^{1} – Cd. 27^{2} 1891.

May Cd. 5^{7} – Wm. 14^{2} – Cg. 23^{18}✻ – Cg. 25^{1} – W. 29^{3} – B. 30^{2} 1889. B. $7^{2♂ 1♀}$ – Cd. 13^{2} – Wm. 19③ – Cd. 21③ – B. 29^{h} – Cd. 30^{1}✻ – Way 31^{3}✕ 1890

June Cd. 1^{1} – W. 8 2 juv. out with Song Sp. – 1889. C. 6(♂♀) – S. 10^{1} juv. out – B. 12^{1} – Falmouth $25^{10 ad.}$ (8♂ 2♀). $26^{2 juv.}$ 1st pl. 1890.

July Cs. 16^{5} 1889. Fal. 5^{6} – 6^{4} 1890

Aug New. $10^{(1)200}$ – Wm. $18^{(1)200}$ 1889. Fal. 10^{3} – Fal. 17^{100} (roost) – Fal. 24㉚ 1890

Feb. Silver Lake, Plymouth Co. 1 ♂ picked up dead by J. A. De Mar ... coll. W. B. 1887

March Wellesley 13 (a ♂ F. Morse) – 1890. B. 15^{30} – B. 22㉚ – 1891. Ipswich $25^{1♂}$ (Faxon) – 1893 20^{2} (Fax.) 1894 Cd. Keyes farm 31^{1}✻ Ar. 26^{1} (Fax.). 1895

Ar. 26^{1} (Faxon) 1896 Cd. 31 (2♂♂ 1♀) 1897 A. 13 ar. (Faxon) 18 2/B. Hill 21 hd 22 2 24 1 28 hd 29 hd Concord 1898

April 1 ♂ – 3 hd – 5 hd – 7 (7♂ 2♀) – 8 hd – 14 hd – 18 – 19 (♂♀) – 20 – 21 – 22 hd – 23 – 24 – 26 – 28 hd – 29 hd – 30 Concord 1892

4 (2/1) – 7 ♂ – 8 1 – 9 ♂ – 11 ♂ – 20 ♂ – 21 ♂ – 22 ♂ 28 (♂♀♀ first ♀♀) – 29 1 – Concord 1893.

Cd. 7 (♂♀) Cd. 14 ⑮ Concord 17 hd, 18 hd 28 2 – 29 1 1895 6 2 manse 7 1 do 10 1 do 11 do 12 do 14 do 15 do 19 do 20 do 21 2 22 hd 26 (♂♀ with cow) 27 2 28 3 Concord 1896

2 hd 3 hd 5 hd 6 (7/2) 7 hd 11 hd 21 hd 24 hd 25 hd 26 hd 29 hd Concord, 1897.

6 hd 10 hd 11 1 25 1 Concord 1898 6 2 14 hd 18 2 30 hd Concord 1899.

May Mt. Auburn 2^{1}✻ – C. 4 (1♂ 2♀) – B. 10^{2} – Cg. 11 (♂♀) – M. V. 10^{2} (Fax.) – Co. 15 ⑫ (roost) – Cd. Way 23^{2} c. 1891. 1 to 14 daily – $22^{1♂}$ – 28④ Concord, 1892.

1 1 9 (5♂♂♂ 2♀♀♀) 11 1 – 12 1 – 13 1 – 14 1 – 16 2 – [E. Lex 18 2] 22 2 – 29 1 – Concord 1893. 1893.

Cd. 1 6 – Cg. 8 1 E. Lex. 8 (6♂ 2♀) – 12 – 16 2 Cd. 20 – Cd. 26 hd Cd. 27 hd 1894.

Concord 1 1 2 1 4 1 12 ④ 1895 Ball's Hill 8 ♂ 10 hd 11 hd B. H. 20 hd B. H. 22 2 ✕ Concord 1898 B. F. 1 1 ✻ 2 hd B. F. 18 Concord 1899

June 5 2 23 1 ✻ Concord 1898

June Cg. 6 1 1891. 1 1 ✻ – 5 1 ✻ 6 ③ 8 ③ 15 1 – 21 1 ✻ 23 1 Concord 1892 1892

" Cd. 29 1 – 1893

" Cd. 7 1 1894

July 1 1 – 3 1 – 9 imm. – 11 1 ✻ – 14 ⑦ – 15 hd Concord 1892 M. ater.

6 hd 11 1 ✻ – 12 1 ✻ – 17 1 ✻ – 18 1 ✻ – 19 1 ✻ 22 1 ✻ 23 1 ✻ – 25 1 ✻ Concord 1893. Cg. 14 1 juv. Cg. 24 1 juv. 1894

Sept N. 10 (100) 1890 9 (15/9) flight to roost – 19 ㉚ roosting in button bushes – 24 (50/50/4) flight to roost – 26 ⑮ – 28 (70) – 30 ⑮ Concord 1892

Nov. 4 (50) Concord 1898

Oct. Cd. 28 ③ 1891. 7 (25). 15 (9/15) – 17 ⑥ (roost in button bushes) Concord 1892

" Cd. 19 (5 ♀) Cd. 27 ♀ alone in bushes on river bank. 1894. Cd. 21 2 ♀♀ in flock of Scolecophagus 23 1 ♀ in flock Sparrows (Ball's Hill) Concord 1895.

" 4 hd among Rusty B. at roost 6 (200) roost, 7 (100) (roost), 8 (100) (roost) 10 100 roost 11 100 (roost) Concord 1898 Cd. 23 (54) c. 1899

Molothrus ater

1889 **Mass.**

Aug 10 Newtonville.– A flock of fully 200 (composed chiefly of young birds the males mottled black and light brown) in a pasture among a herd of cows. Each cow was surrounded by ten or a dozen birds which followed it closely crowding about its head & running under its belly and about its legs. As the cow advanced, feeding, its muzzle often nearly touched a Cow-bird which would merely hop aside when too closely pressed. The Cow-birds often had some difficulty in keeping up and occasionally one had to fly a few yards to effect this but ordinarily they ran smoothly and swiftly zig-zagging about more or less. They seemed to be catching grasshoppers for I often saw them dart suddenly at something and not infrequently spring directly upwards to a height of 5 or 6 inches. The cows did not seem to mind them in the least.

Feeding about cows.

1890

Aug 17 Falmouth. About 100 going to roost at evening in a white cedar swamp in company with Red-wings, Robins, and Bronzed Grackles. The Robins and Grackles roosted in the cedars but the ~~two species~~ Red-wings and Cow birds after first alighting in the cedars flew down one after another into Clethra bushes a dense belt of which encircled the swamp. They scattered about in the tops of these bushes & doubtless passed the night there as it was nearly dark when I left them. The Cow-birds came to this roost in flocks of 8 or 10 to 25 or 30 birds, arriving at about the same time as the Robins. Several that I had a good sight at were in mottled black & gray plumage. They were perfectly silent the whole time they were under my observation.

Roost in white cedar swamp.

Molothrus ater

1891 Mass.

March 15 Waverley.— About thirty with as many Red-wings and half as many Crow Blackbirds feeding in a stubble on the edge of oak woods to which they all flew in a compact flock when startled, the Cow-birds and Red-wings singing in medley. The ground is still covered with snow in many places.

Associating with Agelaius & Quiscalus

" 22 The same mixed flock in nearly the same place, the Cow-birds and Red-wings again singing. I do not remember to have found these three species in close association before, at least at this season.

April 14 Belmont.— Cow-birds have been very numerous for the past week, frequenting apple trees and orchards bordered by open fields. They are usually seen in pairs, by threes, or in parties of five or six. The males chase the females whenever the latter take wing the pursuer and pursued twisting and doubling sharply and flying at a very high rate of speed just over or among the trees. I have been lately struck by the strong resemblance between some of the notes of this bird and those of the Meadow Lark. The chatter of the one is nearly identical with that of the other and the long-drawn whistle of the Cow bird resembles the Meadow Lark's whistle sufficiently closely to be easily mistaken for it at a distance although the form is somewhat different

Mating

Resemblance of notes to those of Meadow Lark.

May 15 Cambridge.— Upward of a dozen went to roost this evening in cat-tail flags over water near Pout Pond in company with three or four Crow-blackbirds and nearly 100 Red-wings. The Cow-birds appeared to include both sexes. The males joined their oog-l-eek to the Red wing singing (See notes under Agelaius!

Roosting in flags over water in May

" 21 W. Faxon found a fresh egg in a last year's nest of the Red-eyed Vireo!

Egg laid in last year's nest

Massachusetts.

Molothrus ater.

1892.

Sept. 9. Concord. Three flocks of Cow Buntings passed me after sunset all flying towards the Great Meadows where they must have a roost. Their wings made a curious sound much like that of a humming top. All the members of one flock looked like males. There were 15 birds in one flock 4 in the other.

Sept. 24 I also saw + + two flocks of Cowbirds about 50 birds in each, come to their roost opposite Ball's Hill. One flock came from down river, the other from the direction of Concord and they reached the roost at exactly the same time but did not mingle until they descended into the bushes, although both flocks whirled about high in air for sometime + repeatedly passed each other closely. Cowbirds, as I have noticed repeatedly this year fly in much closer order than our other Blackbirds. These flocks to-night looked in the distance like dusky balls.

Oct. 17 A little flock of Cow-birds—certainly not more than half a dozen—whirled past us, making the peculiar hustling sound which I have before noted and alighted in the button bushes where they have roosted ever since the Red-wings deserted our meadows. A month ago fully 200 Cow-birds resorted to this roost every night coming to it usually in two flocks, one from up, the other from down river. Their numbers have diminished very gradually until apparently only these few are left.

Molothrus ater.

Concord, Mass.
April 4-1893.

As I was passing Hunts' landing this evening a Cow Blackbird flew overhead in a wide circle, calling, and a little later I saw two sitting together in the top of a elm at the Buttricks'. I am satisfied that this was a *veritable* arrival for if the birds had been about this morning I should have almost certainly seen or heard them.

Molothrus ater

1895 Mass.

July 8 Cambridge. Cow-birds are seldom seen now in the thickly-settled parts of Cambridge, and I think that our city nesting Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Red-eyed Warbling & Yellow-throated Vireos are seldom troubled now with their eggs. But this morning a young Cow-bird in spotted plumage visited the garden. Its foster-mother was a Red-eyed Vireo which fed it at frequent intervals. When the Vireo approached with food the Cow-bird flew to it and crouching with half-opened quivering wings made a low, hissing chee-chee-chee sound. At other times it occasionally uttered a loud Fringilline tchip. After a while the Vireo departed but the Cow-bird had discovered a white mulberry tree and it lingered there a long time in company with some Orioles eating the ripe fruit. It did not pick off and swallow the berries whole but plunged its bill into them biting out small pieces each time

Young

Its mother

Eats ripe mulberries.

1898

Feb. 1 Silver Lake, Plymouth County. Mr. Samuel Henshaw has given me a ♂ Cow-bird which he received from J. A. De Mar with the following data: "[It] came to my place [at Silver Lake] during the last storm [night of Jan. 31 - Feb 1] xxx and picked up corn and oats but was frozen during the night". On skinning the bird I found it very much emaciated.

Wintering

July 2-4 Glendale (in or near), Berkshire Co. Two seen. [Jnum.].

1903

July 15 Concord. — Found a nest of Vireo olivaceus in an apple tree behind our farm house. It contained a young Cow-bird which fluttered down to the ground when I shook the branch & a young Red-eye fully fledged & apparently in vigorous condition. Gilbert afterwards saw what he thinks was another young Red-eye perched on a twig near the nest. The young Red-eye that I saw & the young Cow-bird were calling loudly & so nearly alike that I could distinguish no difference in their cries. This is the first instance that has ever come under my personal observation of young of the foster parent of a Cow-bird reaching maturity or even surviving long after being hatched.

Young Cow-bird & young Vireo raised in same nest.

Notes.

A Cowbird taken in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, first week in March. H. Austen.

O & O. XIV. Apr. 1889 p.63

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds.
Auk XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 78.

181. **Molothrus ater.** Cowbird.— Abundant summer resident, April 2 to early in October; rare winter resident, January 14 to March 29.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

55. *Molothrus ater*, (Cow Bird). Mr. Freeborn informs me that this species is to be met with every summer. I saw a female in front of the Mt. Abraham House at Kingfield, amongst the crab-apple trees, with evident designs against a nest of the Yellow Warbler.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 161

Summer Residents on Southwest Coast of Maine. T. H. Montgomery, Jr.

495. Cowbird. Shot a young ♂ at Boothbay.

O. and O. 15. Nov. 1890. p. 162

Molothrus pecoris — — Large flock. Aug. 27 Rye Beach, N.H. 1867.

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21 '86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

26. **Molothrus ater.** Cowbird. — One seen by Mr. Bradford Torrey, June, 1887.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p.151

Shelburne, N. H.

Molothrus pecoris

1884.

July 8 Seven or eight adults (the majority ♂s) in a pasture feeding on the ground among cows.

The Cowbird Wintering in New Hampshire. — I shot a male Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) Jan. 18, 1895, on one of the principal streets of the town. It was in company with a flock of Sparrows feeding in front of a grain store. The bird had been seen at odd times throughout the winter, usually in company with the Sparrows. It was in good plumage and condition, and did not seem to mind the cold weather. It would probably have remained all winter, for the snow had covered the ground for nearly two months and the mercury had touched 20° below zero several times. — F. B. Spaulding, *Lancaster, N. H.* Auk, XII, April, 1895, p. 182.

Notes from Taftsville, Vt.

Dec. 30, 1883, I saw a fine male Cowbird, (*Molothrus ater*,) in the stock-yard, eagerly picking up corn and oats, of which he took a surprisingly large quantity. He was very tame, allowing me to approach within three feet of him. Fortunately for him and subsequent observations it was Sunday. The same bird remained about here for a month and was a regular visitor in the farm-yards of this vicinity, becoming quite a well known character; the mercury in the meantime was thirty degrees below zero several times.

C. O. Tracy)   O.&O. IX, Apr. 1884. p. 46.

Summer Bds, Mt. Mansfield, Vt.

31. **Molothrus ater.** Cowbird. — Not common. Observed only once — at Moscow, seven miles from the mountain.

by Arthur H. Howell.   Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, p. 342.

E. Mass. 1886.

33. Molothrus pecoris. – April 1. 2 Walter (Faxon) – June 16 flock

Molothrus pecoris Mass.- near Cambridge.

1886 March 27^{20}

April 9^{1} – 12^{6} – 19^{6} – 27^{2}

Mass. (Framingham) Molothrus pecoris

1886.

Jan. 1	"Browne of Framingham reports two Cowbirds seen there about January 1st." (Ex. letter from H. A. Purdie of Jan. 12 – 1886)

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

April 6^{60} – 15^{2}

Molothrus pecoris.

Mass. (near Concord).

1887.
April

July 23^{3}#

young on wing

Molothrus pecoris

Mass. (E. Watertown) Wintering

1888
January 31. A ♂ shot by A. P. Chadbourne near Watertown Arsenal. It was with a flock of Chrysomitris tristis feeding on weeds rising above the snow (now about 4 inches deep.) The winter has been exceptionally severe.

Apr. ~~[illegible]~~ 18^{5}

Molothrus pecoris

Mass. (near Concord).

1888
APR 9^{5} 12^{2}

Molothrus pecoris.

Mass (Belmont) Molothrus pecoris

1888

Dec. 8 Mr. W. Faxon brought me two ♀ Cowbirds this evening. He shot them this morning in Belmont, somewhere near the station.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass.
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Sept. 20; a large flock of ~~[illegible]~~ Cow Buntings were noted.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886. p. 2

March 11th, Cow Bunting;

Spring arrivals at Dartmouth Mass
H. F. Dexter.
O. & O. XI. Apr. 1886. p. 52.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Molothrus ater (Bodd.), Cowbird. Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 140

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Cy, Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

24. Molothrus ater. Cowbird.—Not uncommon.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 44

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28 - July 10. W. Faxon

23. Molothrus ater. Cowbird.—A few were seen near the village of North Adams.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 100

The Cow Bunting wintering in Massachusetts.—On January 2, 1883, Mr. William Brewster and the writer secured two Cow Buntings (*Molothrus ater*) in Belmont, Massachusetts. Both were males, one being an adult in full plumage, the other a young bird in that mottled dress usually seen in September specimens. They were feeding in company with Redpolls (*Ægiothus linaria*) and Goldfinches (*Chrysomitris tristis*) among some rank weeds in an old field. Their crops were filled with seeds. The ground, at the time, was partially covered with snow and the weather cold. There is, apparently, no previous record of the occurrence of this species in winter, in Massachusetts.—Henry M. Spelman, *Cambridge, Mass.* Bull. N. O. C. 8, Apil. 1883, p. 121.

Molothrus ater again in Massachusetts in Winter.—On Jan. 31, 1888, I shot a male Cow Bunting at Watertown, Mass. It was in an old field with a large flock of Goldfinches (*Spinus tristis*), feeding on the weeds and stubble that had not been covered by the snow. The bird was thin, but otherwise in good condition.

This is the third time that this species has been found wintering in New England.*—Arthur P. Chadbourne, *Cambridge, Mass.*

* Two were killed at Belmont, Mass., Jan. 2, 1883, by Mr. Spelman (Bull. N. O. C., Vol. VIII, 1883, p. 121). One seen at Taftsville, Vt. from Dec. 30 to Jan. 30 (C. O. T[racy], Orn. and Oöl., Vol. IX, 1884, p. 45).

Auk, V. April 1888. p. 207.

Molothrus ater in Massachusetts in December.—On Dec. 8, 1888, I shot two female Cowbirds in Belmont, Mass. For records of this bird in Massachusetts in January, see 'The Auk,' Vol. V, 1888, p. 207.—Walter Faxon, *Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 72.

Molothrus ater

Late record {Nov. 13, 1898, E. Mass.
{ " 21 " " "

Ralph Hoffmann. Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196.
Belmont. Mass.

Unusual Winter Records.

Cowbird. Two seen in the Fresh Pond marshes on December 26.

Arthur C. Comey, Cambridge, Mass. Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 293.

Cowbird wintering in Massachusetts.— On November 26, 1915, beside a small swamp, on the borders of Flax Pond, Lynn, Mass., I found a male Cowbird (*Molothrus ater ater*) in company with a flock of English Sparrows. On December 26, I received a postal from my friend, Mr. G. M. Bubier, announcing that he had that day seen a male Cowbird, associating with English Sparrows, beside Strawberry Brook, the outlet of Flax Pond, and about three fourths of a mile from where I saw the Cowbird in November. Today, December 30, I found Mr. Bubier's Cowbird within a few rods of the place he reported him, and still accompanied by his English retinue.— Arthur P. Stubbs, *Lynn, Mass.*

Auk. XXXIII. April 1916. p. 201-202

Connecticut, June. 1893.

Molothrus ater

June 3^{1} 4^{20} Fairfield — Fairfield
" 6^{5} 8^{1} 10^{1} 13^{1} 14^{1} 18^{3} } Saybrook
" 19^{2}

" 22^{3} - 23^{1} ♂ [illegible] in mig. 25^{6} Andover

Exceptionally numerous throughout the region between Fairfield & Greens Farms. Elsewhere about as in E. Mass. Young bird just from nest fed by Mniotilta — in Andover June [illegible]

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn, G.H. Coues

46. **Molothrus ater.** Cowbird. — Once seen.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C.H. Merriam.

79. **Molothrus ater** (*Boddaert*) *Gray*. Cow Bunting.—Not rare.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 230

Notes, Shelter Island, N.Y.
W. W. Worthington.

Cow Buntings arrived on the 28th. of March.

O.&O. X. May. 1885. p. 80

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N.Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

April 12, *Molothrus ater*, (495). Cowbird.

O.&O. XI. July. 1886. p. 109

Cowbird Wintering in Western New York.—A few weeks ago my attention was called to a strange bird which was feeding on the street with *Passer domesticus*. On getting a good view I saw it was *Molothrus ater*. The egg from which it was hatched was probably laid and hatched in a Sparrow's nest, and the bird, reared by the Sparrows, failed to mingle with the rest of its species. I have seen it a number of times since, and a young man told me last week that he saw it nearly every day. I am quite anxious to know if it will survive through the winter with its foster parents. Being itself a vagabond, it is a fit companion for *Passer domesticus*.—J. L. Damon, *Lockport, N. Y.*

Auk, 2, July, 1885. p. 309.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

77. Molothrus ater.

First plumage: female. Above olivaceous-brown, the primaries, secondaries, greater and middle coverts, and every feather upon the nape and interscapular region, edged with light sugar-brown. Superciliary line and entire under parts delicate brownish-yellow. The throat and lower area of abdomen immaculate; everywhere else thickly streaked with purplish-drab. From a specimen in my cabinet taken at Cambridge, Mass., August 4, 1875. A male in first plumage differs in being much darker and more thickly streaked beneath. Specimens in process of change into the autumnal plumage are curiously patched and marked with the light brown of the first plumage and the darker feathers of the fall dress. *All the remiges and rectrices* are moulted with the rest of the first plumage during the first moult.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, July, 1878. p. 123.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

M. pecoris has been taken in albinistic plumage.

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p.22

Albino Cowbird.—Aug. 11, 1881, while at Kaneville, Ill., I shot an Albino Cowbird (*Molothrus ater.*) It measured 7½ inches long and was of a creamy white color with the exception of the head and breast, which were a little more on the yellow tint. It was with a flock of Redwing Blackbirds. When I picked it up its eyes shone like fire. The iris was of a fire red. The pupil being pink the effect can be imagined. I could not discern the sex.—*Jos. L. Hancock, Chicago, Ill.*

O.&O. VIII. Mar. 1883. p. 24

Albinos.

Geo. G. Cantwell, Minneapolis, Minn.

I also secured on May 3, a ♂ Cow Bunting with a light yellowish patch on the right side of the neck about the size of a dime.

O. & O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p.184

The ardent male usually arranges to have these antics witnessed by two or more of the plainer sex, as we are forced to speak of the females of most birds, and we cannot doubt their efficacy in captivating the objects of his ambitious passion. But as the breeding season wears on, and the novelty of being many-wived has, perhaps, come to be a matter of some concern with this polygamist, its enthusiasm diminishes, and many songs fail at the terminal note of ebullition. Songs of this character are referred to beyond as half-songs.

Cowbirds are somewhat uncertain and capricious in the use of their voices, and show much variability in different years in the continuousness of song. As a general thing singing is infrequent in June, although extending through this month and into July. At this time the half-song is almost exclusively in use, but the bubble notes may be produced as long as the bird remains in voice. Dates of latest songs of the first period range from July 6 to 23.

There seems to be no regularity about singing in the fall; but I have heard imperfect notes and half-songs at different times within a month after the middle of September. Sometimes, in the autumn, when Cowbirds are assembled in small flocks, they become garrulous, when their commingled utterance of low notes produces a sound as of subdued warbling.

The Indigo-bird sings faithfully through the midsummer; but the silencing influence that begins to overtake the birds at this time, reaches it about the end of July, and it is soon quieted. The last days of singing are between the end of July and mid-August; my records giving August 15 and 16 as dates of latest songs.

I have ever found this bird uncommon in the fall, and my scant data respecting its singing in that season are comprehended between the last two weeks of September.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Molothrus pecoris. Cowbird.

The song-utterance of this species, although giving a slight reminder of its near relationship to the Blackbirds, is nevertheless strikingly unique. It has an indefinite beginning, which is continued into a high attenuated note, ending with a sound curiously like that of bubbling water. This irresistibly suggests a bubble-like bursting forth of sound after a long audible inhalation. It seems to be a sort of appendage to the ordinary song-notes, and is, perhaps, achieved only by vigorous individuals, or under the stimulus of courtship. Its production appears to be a matter of some difficulty, being attended by singular bodily contortions and a spreading and stiffening of the wings and tail.

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On October 8, 1882, I observed the male of a pair of Cowbirds striving, and with some success, to produce before its mate its full spring song, not forgetting the associated bodily contortions. Such behavior, in an autumn bird, was at least highly unseasonable, if not suggestive of illegitimate intentions.

The singular bodily action which accompanies the vocal expression of the Cowbird conveys the suggestion that the air-sacs of the body are brought into play in the production of song. The ducking of its head, the spasmodic motion of its tail, the half-opening of its wings, the swelling of its body, which collapses with the culminating notes; all this, seems to point to the utilization of the air-sacs—to their inflation and the muscular expulsion of the contained air—in the execution of its singular vocal performance. Indeed, from the peculiar bodily action of many birds while in song, it is reasonable to suppose that the air-sacs are often important adjuncts of the lungs and vocal organs. Such bodily motions during singing, and the special

COW BIRDS.—Edgar A. Small wrote April 5th: The Cow Birds are mating. I was watching them this morning in the yard. There were two females and one male, and the females flew after the male and seemed to make all the advances. 1

O. & O. VII. Dec. 1882. p. 181

COWBIRD. — Charles Ed. Prior, Jewett City, Conn., reports a Sparrow's nest on the ground which contained four Sparrow's eggs and three of the Cowbird. 2

O. & O. VII. Oct. 1882. p. 164

I noticed Dr. Atkins' note concerning the Cowbirds' eggs in the Wood Thrush's nest, and will say that I have collected at least three sets of Wood Thrush with Cowbirds' eggs. W. T. Warwick. 3

O. & O. VIII. Feby. 1883. p. 15.

I have found Cowbird's eggs very common this Summer. Have twice found three of their eggs in nests of the Red-eyed Vireo. 4

Chas. Edw. Prior, Jewett City, Conn.

O. & O. VIII. Sept. 1883. p. 71

5

Never saw but one instance of ~~their~~ the Cowbird laying in the nest of the Cardinal Red-bird— *W. T. Warwick* O. & O. VIII. Feb. 1883. p. 15

6 →

Cowbird's Eggs with Sets.

BY J. P. N.

It is the custom with many collectors not to preserve any eggs of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) which they find in the nests of other birds. This is a mistake, as their eggs should always be kept with the set they are found with, and marked with the same set mark. The fact of their accompanying the set should also be noted on the data. O. & O. XIII. Oct. 1888 p. 158

More Cowbird Eggs.

Editor O. & O.:

At various different times I have noticed in the columns of the O. & O. lists of the birds in whose nests eggs of the Cowbird have been found.

I have never noticed in these lists an account of the Cowbird appropriating the nests of the Kingbird or of the Meadowlark, and if these two be additions to the already known imposed upon birds I would like to add them, as I have found Cowbirds' eggs in the nests of both.

Neil F. Posson.

O. & O. XV. Feb. 1890 p. 31

6

Oological Notes.

In the May number of the O. & O., while reading the very interesting description of "A Series of Eggs of the Oven Bird," by Mr. J. P. Norris, I noticed in Set XXVI, three eggs of the Warbler and three of the Cowbird, the query, "does the fact of the Cowbird laying its eggs in the nest prevent the real owner from completing her set, or does the Cowbird make away with the rightful owner's eggs?" As far as my observation goes, the depositing of the Cowbird's eggs does, in most cases, prevent the owner from completing her set. For instance, on May 29, 1886, I found a nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler containing two eggs, and upon visiting the nest in the afternoon of the same day, I found a Cowbird had deposited an egg with the others. The Warbler immediately began setting. The nest was left undisturbed for three days, when, concluding no more eggs would be laid, I collected the set.

Also on May 19, 1891, I found another Chestnut-side's nest. She began laying May 22d and had deposited three eggs when a Cowbird also laid one in the nest. She then began setting, but I left the eggs until May 28th when as no more were laid I took them. I could recite several other instances similar to the above, of various species of birds, thus proving that the depositing of the Cowbird's eggs does prevent the real owner from completing her set.

I have in my collection a set of Oven Bird's eggs smaller in number than any described by Mr. Norris, it being a set of two without any Cowbird's eggs. The nest and eggs were found May 31, 1884, but were left until June 5th for a larger set, without avail. Upon blowing the eggs, I found that the owner had been setting for at least one or two days before I discovered the nest. It is the smallest set I ever saw, the usual nest complement in this locailty being five eggs. They measure .83 x .64 and .82 x 62.

I collected a set of six eggs of the Yellow-shafted Flicker, June 9, 1892, which is remarkable for the fact that it contains one runt egg that is the nearest to a spherical egg of any I have ever taken. It measures .80 x .75. The other five measure respectively, 1.06 x .87; 1.08 x .88; 1.10 x .88; 1.10 x .88; 1.16 x .88.

G. L. H.

Bethel, Conn.

O. & O Vol. 17, July, 1892 p. 102-103

Variation in the Size of Cowbirds' Eggs.

The variation in the size of the eggs of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) is remarkable. The largest eggs in a large series before me measure .93 x .72; .95 x .66, and .94 x .60; the smallest: .80 x .58; and .80 x .61. *J. P. N.*

O&O, XVI, April. 1891, p. 61.

Cowbird Note.— May 30, 1909, I was lying partly hidden behind a log at Westerly, R. I., and trying to discover the nest of a pair of Black and White Warblers (*Mniotilta varia*) by the actions of the old birds. A short time after taking up my position a female Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) came flying through the trees and lit but a short distance away. From time to time I glanced at her to see what she was up to but was unable to see that she had moved a muscle for some twenty minutes, for which time she remained hunched up as if asleep. Then she flew straight to the nest of a Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*) which though but ten feet from my hiding place, was so well concealed that it had escaped my attention. After remaining on the nest about two minutes she flew out of sight among the trees. Upon investigation I found the nest to contain two eggs of the rightful owner and one of the Cowbird.— A. Brazier Howell, *Covina, Cal.*

Auk XXXI. Apr. 1914. p. 250, 251.

The Cowbird Nuisance. There has been some talk here of exterminating the English sparrow from the country, but I think they might better exterminate the common Cowbird. It is almost impossible for a Chipping bird or a Yellow Warbler to build their nest here without having one or more Cowbird's eggs deposited in it. Last spring I took an Oriole's nest that had been deserted by the old ones, I found in it three Oriole's and three Cowbird's eggs, and under these covered up were also three more Cowbird's eggs, making nine eggs in the nest. I did not wonder then that they left the nest. I also found an Eaves swallow's nest with four English sparrow's eggs in it, the first I have found of either of these nests being occupied or molested by other birds.—*S. E. Parshall, Cheshire, N. Y.*

O.&O. IX. Nov.1884. p.134

Correspondence.

That Cheeky Cowbird.

Editor of O. & O.:

Having read with pleasure and profit the article on the Cowbird by Morris Gibbs, in the January O. & O., and the list of birds whose nests are appropriated temporarily by said Cowbird, to this list I can add the following: Pewee, Field Sparrow, Cardinal Grosbeak, Black-throated Bunting, Warbling Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Black and White Warbler, Blue-wing Yellow Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue Grosbeak, Brown Thrasher, Western Meadow Lark, Yellow-breasted Chat. Cannot we have a list of all the birds who suffer from this bird? Let us hear from all who can add to the list.

S. R. Ingersoll.

Ballston Spa, N. Y.

O.&O. XV. Feb. 1890 p. 31

Editor of O. & O.:

Allow me to add my mite in regard to that "cheeky Cowbird." That is, a set of four Catbirds which contained two of the Cowbird; taken near Saginaw, Mich., in 1887.

Ed. Van Winkle.

March 9, 1890.

O.&O. XV. Mar. 1890 p 48

Icteridae found nesting near Des Moines, Iowa. James B. Green.

Cow bird (*Molothrus ater*). Abundant summer resident. The birds whose nests are used the most for a receptacle by the cow bird for its eggs, are the Wood Thrush, Summer Warbler and various Vireos. Over one-half of the nests found of the first have one or more eggs, and I have found as high as six with two of the Thrush's.

O.&O. XII. Jun. 1887 p. 91.

I also discovered a Warbling Vireo's nest which contained three Cow Blackbirds' eggs, and one Vireo. The query is "did the same Blackbird lay the three eggs, or were they laid by separate birds?" So far as my observation has been the Cowbird never lays but one egg in nest, that is, I never found more than one in a nest, and my opinion is that they were laid by separate birds.

A. H. Boies, Hudson, Michigan.

O.&O. IX. July. 1884. p. 90.

The Cowbird.

The Purple Finch should be added to the list of birds imposed upon by the Cowbird. I have a clutch of Purple Finch's eggs, containing a Cowbird's egg. *A. H. Alberger.*

Ithaca, N.Y.

O.&O. XV. Mar. 1890 p 46

Egg of the Cowbird in Nest of the Carolina Dove.—Mr. E. H. King of West Liberty, Iowa, writes me to this effect, adding that the Dove is the largest bird he has known to be chosen as the Cowbird's foster-parent.—Elliott Coues, *Washington, D. C.*

Auk, I, July, 1884, p. 293

Birds Tioga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

258. Cow Bunting or Cowbird. This lazy little tyrant is very common, making its arrival from the south about the middle of March. Too lazy to build itself a nest the female deposits her eggs in the nests of other birds, the principal victims of which are the Bluebird, Yellow Bird, Yellow Warbler and Chipping Sparrow. I have found as many as three eggs in one nest. As soon as the egg or eggs are hatched the ground bird wriggles and twists till it throws the other birds out. I remember once seeing a little Yellow Warbler feeding a Cowbird which was full grown. The measurement of their eggs is about 7-8 in. by 5-8 in. As the last of October draws near the young and old birds assemble in large flocks and leave for the south.

O. &O. XV. June, 1890, p. 83

Cowbirds in a Black-and-white Creeper's Nest.—In the spring of 1881 a friend reported finding a bird's nest with two sorts of eggs in it. Suspecting the solution of this mystery, I examined the nest some days later and found a couple of young Cowbirds, with gaping mouths but fat and plump, while entirely underneath them was an addled Cowbird's egg and two young Black-and-white Creepers, the latter nearly dead from starvation or suffocation — or both.

In this connection I might record taking Cowbird's eggs frequently from nests of the Indigo Bunting, and that invariably the Buntings have deserted their nest after these eggs were removed.—John A. Morden, *Hyde Park, Ontario.*

Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 193-194.

Foster Parents of the Cowbird.—During the season of 1884 I found young Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) in the nests of the Kingbird, House Wren, and Chipping Sparrow.—William L. Kells, *Listowel, Ontario.*

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 106.

Bird destruction
D. D. Stone.

I am ally satisfied that, around this locality, ~~the Catbirds and~~ owbirds do more toward the extermination of many small irds than all the men, boys and cats.

O.&O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 176

Cowbird.

Further Notes on the Cowbird, with Remarks on the Nesting of the Prothonotary Warbler at Quincy, Illinois.

File under Cow-bird

Until the season of 1889 I had not been aware that the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), except on rare occasions, laid its eggs in Woodpeckers' nests or similar cavities used as nesting sites.

During a two weeks' collecting trip to Lima Lake in May, 1889, while searching for Warblers' nests, and in particular those of *Protonotaria citrea*, I found, out of some seventy or more nests of this species examined, that no less than eleven nests contained the egg or eggs of this parasite.

While usually these nests were in holes more or less enlarged and not deep, I noted on two or three occasions that, while the Cowbird's eggs were in the nest the cavity was just large enough to permit the Warbler to enter and apparently too small for the Cowbird. It is also characteristic of this Warbler to remain close about the nest at all times to avoid being deprived of their home by some neighboring pair, for there are more birds than nesting places in the localities searched.

On several occasions a hole would contain a nest and fresh eggs with still another nest built on top of it, also containing eggs, thus showing that some pair had driven off the first occupants. Several of these two-story nests which I brought home with me got somewhat crushed in packing, and the eggs were found broken within them.

Still another nest was found, in which two females had laid, contained nine eggs which were of two different types and piled up on top of each other. Both females were near and they appeared quarrelsome during the time I watched them.

On this trip I found one nest of the Kentucky Warbler containing but a single Cowbird's egg which the female was patiently incubating. (There was one chipped egg of the Warbler on the ground near the nest.) I passed the nest daily for a week, each time flushing the female at close quarters, and finally I destroyed the egg, which was then nearly hatched, and took the nest. Another remarkable instance was reported to me by my friend George L. Toppan, Esq. of Chicago, Illinois. In this case the Cowbird had deposited its egg in the nest of a Cliff Swallow.

Otho C. Poling.

Fort Huachuca, Arizona.

O, & O. XV, June, 1890, p.92

Cowbird Living with English Sparrows.—I have to report a Cowbird as living and accompanying a flock of English Sparrows, which no doubt had hatched and raised it. It is only noticeable by its larger size and walk, which is not a hop, as is the Sparrow, its color is the same as the female Sparrow.—*A. H. Boies, Hudson, Mich.*

O. & O. IX. Oct. 1884. p. 128.

Dr. H. A. Atkins; Locke, Ingham Co., Mich., writes as follows:

June 1.—Cowbird laid an egg in the nest of a Wood Thrush which then contained two eggs. At 3. P. M. the Wood Thrush laid another egg, four in all. I have never found the Cowbird's egg in a nest of so large a bird before

June 2. — At 10 A. M. found nest of Golden-crowned Thrush with two eggs and three of the Cowbird, (five in all.) Broke the eggs and found them partially incubated. One of the eggs was nearly spherical. I think I have once or twice in my life found three Cowbird's eggs in the same nest.

O. & O. VII. Oct. 1882. p. 164

A Very Peculiar Bird.

A very strange bird, one whose peculiarity in never building a nest of its own is known to all oölogists, is the Cowbird, or as otherwise known to many, the Cow Bunting, Cowpen bird and Cow Blackbird, and scientifically as *Molothrus ater* (Bodd.) Gray. Although a familiar bird to almost all of those who study the avian fauna of North America, and classed as a common species in nearly all portions of the United States, it is, nevertheless, but little understood by students of bird life, and those devoted to the elucidation of the enigmas which arise so often to startle and perplex us. Thinking a few remarks on this familiar species would not come amiss, the writer offers the present article, trusting at least to cause some to investigate and give extra information on the peculiarities of the breeding habits of this interesting and apparently unnatural bird.

Several years ago my attention was drawn to the fact that the number of eggs laid by the Cow Bunting was not given in any work that I had met with, and further, that many habits peculiar to the species were not understood, or at least but partially comprehended. The following queries ultimately suggested themselves after considerable thought, namely: 1. What is the number of eggs laid by the Cowbird in a clutch? 2. Does the Cowbird use judgment in depositing eggs as to number, in accordance to size of nest invaded or the number of eggs to be laid by the rightful owner? 3. Does the Cowbird usually select nests that already contain egg or eggs of the owner, and when empty nests are selected is it done because the Cowbird is pressed for time and cannot find another nest? 4. Is the Cowbird polygamous? 5. Is the Cowbird as secret about invading the nest of another bird as generally supposed? 6. Does the Cowbird ever assume the duties of a parent by incubating its hopes of future posterity, or, later, supply its own offspring with food? 7. What is the period of incubation, if we can so express it, when represented by the devotion of the rightful owner of the nest to the alien eggs? Lastly will the imposed on owner of the nest hatch several alien eggs when there are none of her own in the nest?

In Michigan where the writer's observations have been mainly made during the last twenty years, the Cowbird has appeared on an average March 29th, the earliest arrival being March 16th, and the latest April 9th. About May 10th the birds are prepared to drop eggs into almost any inviting nest. Previous to that date fully constructed nests of the right species are rather scarce.

From May 15th, when the smaller species are prepared for household duties, to July 1st, the Cow Bunting is ever on the *qui vive* to surprise owners of homes with the unwelcome donations. At the time of arrival only males are seen, and it is fair to say that the females arrive about four days later. On pleasant, sunshiny days both sexes may be seen sitting in lazy contentment along fences or in the trees, the males endeavoring to effect their unmusical *splreele*, uttered in a drawling manner. At this time the feathers are ruffled up about the neck, the bird appearing much like the Red-wing Blackbird in his actions. There is also a call note, uttered by both sexes sounding like *squeak*. The species is eminently gregarious from the time it arrives until it departs, the two sexes appearing to be about equal in numbers excepting during the active season of laying when the females are undoubtedly occupied hunting around for asylums wherein to deposit their eggs. At this time the males predominate in numbers and may be easily identified, as their glossy coats form a marked contrast to the dull brown of their companion's apparel. In late May and June the males appear to outrank the females in about the proportion of three to two. Later in the season when the young are associated with the adults and after moulting is over the sombre coats prevail.

The Cowbirds are gregarious during the entire season, but are more inclined to congregate during spring and after moulting, often associating with large flocks of the Rusty Grackles, and occasionally with the common Crow, Blackbirds and Redwings during autumn. They usually fly in flocks of five to eight during breeding season, but may be found in flocks of twenty to fifty later in the season.

As to the number of eggs laid by this species I am at a loss to state with certainty, but will give a few observations that approach accuracy. One day I secured a female alive, and as she was only injured slightly in the wing I determined to save her in order to examine her habits. The date of capture was May 27th, and as she fed greedily on the mixed insect and other foods that were offered the following day, there was but little doubt but the captive would survive. On May 29th an egg with the characteristic form and markings was laid in the cage, quite forty hours after she became a prisoner. From this I was sat-

Molothrus pecoris

Concord Mass. September 11. 1878

A dark morning, the dripping trees shrouded in a dense fog. Stepping out of "the Old Manse" I heard in the ash trees that line the avenue a sound like the liquid murmuring of water rushing over rapids. This sound was produced by a large number of Cow Birds which were thickly clustered in the upper branches of two of the trees. The males were singing in an undertone and the combined effect must have been the product of many voices. I counted the smaller groups &

Molothrus ater

Concord Mass. October 14. 1880

I saw a large flock of Cow-birds today feeding on the ground in an apple orchard. On Oct. 5th I noted a similar flock near the same place.

They were very silent & quite tame. When I had approached within ten yards or so they flew up into the trees above where sitting motionless among the thick foliage they were very difficult to see.

It is not often that they are seen after the first of October. But a few isolated flocks remain in this made nearly fifty three birds: there were at least one third more in the other tree.

At length they took wing and after a few whirling evolutions came back overhead at a great height their wings producing and audible rushing sound in the still air.

In Cambridge, in the afternoon I saw an equally large flock, feeding among cows in a pasture.

part of the State till about November 1st.

The Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) **as a Fly-destroyer.** — On the 20th of October my little son shot a male Cowbird, winging it slightly; the bird was exceedingly active and fought most vigorously when taken in the hand, pecking savagely, but the moment it was placed on the floor, or on a table, it quieted down, and would step promptly and fearlessly up to an extended hand, and if a fly were presented, pick it off and stand patiently to wait for more. It caught flies with unerring snaps of its beak, as they flew around its head, buzzed against the window panes, or rested on the floor or table top; it drank freely of water, and delighted in picking up fine grains of earth and sand between its meals of flies. My children began to feed it promiscuously, but it refused everything except flies. They took it from room to room, when it was turned loose, and at once began its incessant war upon flies, soon catching every one that was not roosting on the ceiling. Finally after six or seven days of this captivity the supply of live flies gave out, and the bird was taken into the summer kitchen where these insects were in the greatest abundance and where large numbers were dead, having been whipped by the servants and the children; the Cowbird ate very heartily of these dead flies, and the next morning was found dead in its cage, in which it had been regularly shut up and covered every night.

It became fearless, and was easily taken up in the hand, after it had been in the children's hands about a day; it would stand facing them on a table top, and take flies from their hands as rapidly as they could be passed over.—HENRY W. ELLIOTT, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.*

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 72.

A new Foster-parent of the Cowbird.— On April 28, 1902, I found in an old log cabin a nest of Bewick's Wren, containing five fresh eggs of the owner and one fresh egg of the Cowbird. This species I do not find mentioned in any book, not even the late Maj. Chas. E. Bendire's monumental work, as a foster-parent of the Cowbird. The nest in question was found in the southern part of Ross Co., Ohio, was photographed and the entire set collected.— W. F. HENNINGER, *Waverly, Ohio.*

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, pp. 400-1.

Molothrus ater

Wintering in Mass.

Belmont, Mass. January 2, 1883

While out collecting to-day with H. M. Spelman I shot two Cow-buntings. They were in a flock of about one hundred Redpolls & Goldfinches feeding on or among some weeds in a large grassy field. At my approach they took to some walnut (hickory) trees when I shot them both. Spelman has one an adult ♂ in perfect plumage. My skin is a young ♂ in the curious patched dress we find in October specimens.

Molothrus pecoris

Wintering in Conn.

Bridgeport Conn Dec. 20, 1883

While passing through Conn. in the cars I saw a flock of about fifty Cow Buntings within a mile of Bridgeport. They rose from a bed of weeds by the track & I saw them distinctly & identified them beyond any question. There was about six inches of snow.

Mass (Concord) — Molothrus pecoris

1887 — Probably monogamous.

May 31 — I am very sure that Cow-birds are monogamous. During the past month I have repeatedly observed them in pairs, especially in our orchard and on Ripley's Hill, and on one occasion when four were together among some cows they separated into two pairs when they flew. I shot the ♀ of a pair that was often seen in the orchard and for days the ♂ flew restlessly about the place calling for its lost mate.

Analecta Ornithologica
Leonard Stejneger

XXII. The Correct Name of the American Cowbird.

In 'The Ibis' for 1883, p. 583, Dr. Sclater has a note headed as above, in which he concludes that it should remain *pecoris* and not be changed to *ater* as proposed originally by Gray and, later on, by Coues, and adopted by Ridgway. The following are my reasons for not agreeing with him.

Pl. Enlum. 534 is identified and named by Boddaert (Tabl. Pl. Enl. p. 31) thus:

> "534. Trupiale noir Buff. V. p. 301. Briss. II. p. 103. *Oriolus niger* mihi Linn. *Gen.* 52.0."

On p. 37 he identifies Pl. 606, fig. 1 (which represents the bird in question) thus:

> "606. 1. Petit Troupiale noir, Buff. V. p. 303. Briss. *Ornith.* II. p. 103. pl. XI. Linn. *Gen.* 52.0. *Oriolus ater*, black oriole Lath. *birds* I. p. 445. n. 37."

Now, Dr. Sclater reasons thus (*l. c.*): "On reference to Boddaert's Table, p. 37, it will be observed that he does not propose to give a *new name*, '*Oriolus ater*,' to Daubenton's '*Troupiale de la Caroline*' (Pl. Enl. 606. fig. 1), but merely quotes (as a synonym of Daubenton's figure) '*Oriolus ater*, Black Oriole, Lath. Birds, i. p. 445. n. 337.' But the synonym is incorrect, for Latham's 'Black Oriole' is quite another bird. Moreover, when Boddaert intends to make an original name he usually adds after it the word 'mihi.'"

We now turn to Latham, and find nowhere the name '*Oriolus ater*.' It is therefore clear that Boddaert does not quote "*Oriolus ater*, Black Oriole, Lath.," etc., as a synonym, but simply the latter part of it, imposing the name *Oriolus ater* upon the bird represented on the plate, and not named systematically either by Buffon, Brisson, or Linnæus. That he adduces Latham's 'Black Oriole' wrongly as a synomyn does not invalidate the name which is based upon the plate 606. It seems, moreover, evident, that his quotation of Latham's 'Black Oriole' is not due to a misidentification of Latham's description, but rather to a lapsus of the pen, for under the 'Black Oriole' Latham quotes Pl. Enlum. 534, the same figure which Boddaert a few pages earlier (p. 31, see above) named *Oriolus niger*, while again Latham quotes Pl. Enl. 606, f. 1. under the 'Lesser Black Oriole,' the bird in question, to which Boddaert, therefore, most probably intended to refer.

That '*Oriolus ater*' lacks the appendix *mihi* is totally insignificant. A few examples, picked up at random, are sufficient to show that: *Hirundo albiventer* (pl. enl. 564. 2, Bodd. p. 32), *Muscicapa fusca* (574, 1, p. 34), *Muscicapa eques* (831, 1, p. 51), *Tringa miles* (835, p. 51), *Formicarius cayanensis* (821, p. 50), *Motacilla naevia* (752, 1, p. 47), *Motacilla eques* (730, p. 46), *Tanagra nigricula* et *T. pileata* (720, 1 and 2, p. 45), *Tanagra grisea* (714, 1, p. 45), *Tanagra rufa* (711, p. 45), *Parus cinctus* (708, p. 44), etc. The last seven are particularly interesting as compared with the name given to the bird on plate 712. The latter is based upon exactly the same authorities and in precisely the same manner as the above, to which '*mihi*' is not appended, and still the species figured on pl. 712 is called "Alauda capensis *mihi*.*

Somebody might perhaps object, that '*Oriolus ater*' belongs as a quotation to 'black oriole' (see Boddaert's text as quoted above) because only separated from it by a comma. In reply I shall only refer to Bodd., p. 44, and the following quotation to prove that the comma is of no account:

> "704. 2. Figuier Protonotaire, Buff. IX. p. 465. Briss. *Ornith.* III. o. *Motacilla citrea*, Linn. *Gen.* 114. o."

On the same page are two examples, 701, 2, and 706, 1.

There is, therefore, in my mind no doubt but what Dr. Coues was perfectly justified in proposing the change from *Molothrus pecoris* to *Molothorus ater* for the American Cowbird.

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* Numerous similar examples might be quoted, as pl. 700. 1 and 2, compared with 701, 2, 702, 703, 1 and 2; 706. 1 compared with the same pl. fig. 2, all these on p. 44. In many of these cases the absence of '*mihi*' is very notable, as both the generic and the specific names were new and given by Boddaert.

Auk, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 49-50.

For note on Cowbirds eggs in Chewink's nest see note under the latter by W. T. Warwick

O. & O. VIII. Feby. 1883. p. 15.

For note on Cowbird see article headed Nesting under difficulties.

O. & O. XII. Mar. 1887 p. 38.

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535. *The Cow Bird. Molothrus ater* Bodd. By W. W. Dunlop. *Ibid.*, III, pp. 240, 241.—Its habits. Can. Sport. & Naturalist

598. *Cow Bunting.* By E. E. F[ish].. *Ibid.*. p. 46.—A pair of Song Sparrows observed feeding *two* nestling Cow Buntings.

Bull. Buf. Nat. Field Club, 1883

Molothrus ater. Cowbird.—I have taken a number of sets of Chipping Sparrow's nests containing single eggs of this bird, and I have also found their eggs in the nests of Song Sparrows. Seven Mile Beach, N.J. C. S. Shick.

AUK, VII, Oct. 1890, p. 329

Brewer on the Cow Blackbird

[illegible]

received its name from the transverse bands with which it was ornamented. I would follow the example of the distinguished naturalist who has preceded me in the genus, in selecting a name for this species.

HYDRARGYRA TRIFASCIATA.

Four longitudinal bands on each side of the body, and three transverse bands between the termination of the longitudinal bands and the base of the tail.

The upper part of the body is of a yellowish green: on each side, are four dark colored bands running almost the entire length of the fish: the first of these, is high on the back; the second passes from the upper edge of the operculum, in a direct line to its termination; the remaining two, commencing back of the pectoral fin, run obliquely upwards and backwards to a point on a line with the centre of the ventral fin, then turn gently down, and are continued parallel with the other two bands.

At the base of the tail, are three transverse bands of a similar color. All the under portion of the body, is of a brilliant yellow.

Snout elongated—lower jaw straight.

Length of specimen five inches five lines: *thickness,* seven and a half lines: *depth,* one inch one and a half lines.

P 18. D 14. V 6. A 12. C 18.

This fish was taken with other species of the genus in the marshes of this vicinity.

Since reading, a few months since, a paper on the Catalogue of the Fishes of Massachusetts, the following have been met with, not mentioned in that Catalogue, which are now contained in our Cabinet.

Scomberesox *saurus*, Flem. The *Saury*—called here by the fishermen, the *bill-fish*. Not unfrequently taken on some parts of the coast in nets. Two specimens have lately been cast ashore at Nahant—one of which, very perfect, was presented to the Society by Mr. Jonathan Johnson of that place.

Murænoides *guttàta*, Lacepede. The *butter-fish*. Found in large numbers under the rocks on beaches at low tide.

Physis *furcàtus*, Flem. The *great forked beard*. Incorrectly called by our fishermen the *Hake*.

Gasterosteus *quàdracus*, Mitchill. The *four spined stickle-back*.—A specimen of this pretty little fish, one inch and three lines in length, was brought me by Mr. Joseph P. Couthouy, who found it thrown upon the beach of South Boston Point, at the entrance of Boston Harbor.

Boston Journal of Natural History Vol. I, no 4, May 1837.

ART. XIX.—REMARKS ON THE POSITIONS ASSUMED BY GEORGE ORD, ESQ. IN RELATION TO THE COW BLACK-BIRD, (ICTERUS AGRIPENNIS) IN LOUDON'S MAGAZINE FOR FEBRUARY, 1836. By Thomas M Brewer.

Read July 6th, 1836.

"Of all the known birds that are indigenous to North America" says Mr. Ord, in a communication to Loudon's Magazine for February, 1836, "perhaps there is not one whose habits are so interesting as those of the cow-bunting, cow-bird, cow-pen bird or cow black-bird, (the Fringilla *pècoris* of Latham); and yet there is hardly one, whose history has been involved in greater obscurity." These observations are just; and to the latter clause he might have added, that among American birds, there is hardly a single species whose habits are less generally known, except indeed by professed ornithologists, than those of this interesting bird. Its very existence among us is unknown to most; or if any are aware that we have a bird that imposes upon its neighbors the task of rearing its young, it is but too often confounded with the European cuckoo. But the fact is, our cuckoos, thus unjustly involved in the obloquy attached to the conduct of the European species, in the beautiful language of Wilson, "build their own nest, hatch their own eggs, and rear their own young; and in conjugal and parental affection, are nowise behind any of their neighbors of the grove."

That the habits of this bird should have been thus involved in obscurity, and should continue so, to the present day, will not, perhaps, strike us with so much astonishment, when we learn that such distinguished naturalists as Wilson, Nuttall and Audubon, have not been entirely free, in their account of its habits, from inaccuracies. Many of the errors and omissions of these justly celebrated naturalists have been pointed out by Mr. Ord, in the communication before alluded to. Several of his positions I have it in my power to confirm, by actual observation. There are, however, many, which he seems to have adopted much too hastily; which are not only not supported, but have actually been confuted by established facts. There are also some circumstances which he appears to have overlooked altogether. To the consideration of these, I would ask your attention a few moments.

In the first place, the writer of the above paper enumerates four positions assumed by others, but which he pronounces untenable. They are,

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1st. "There is never more than one egg of the cow-bunting deposited in the same nest."

2nd. "The egg invariably hatches before those of the foster bird."

3rd. "The foster mother, in seeking food for her first-born, neglects her own eggs, and their embryos consequently perish."

4th. "The birds selected by the cow-bunting as nurses of her progeny are always smaller than herself."

He is undoubtedly correct as to the first position. His views on this point he makes good, by a number of instances which he adduces. But it has not, as he would lead us to infer, been assumed, by either Wilson or Nuttall, nor yet, in all probability, did Audubon so intend. Wilson merely says, "I have never known more than one egg of the cow-bunting dropped in the same nest;" and Mr. Ord afterwards tells us that the fact of two being sometimes found, became known to Wilson before his death. And even the position of Mr. Audubon, unfounded as it may seem at a hasty glance, and wholly at variance with established facts, which was evidently the one had in view when Mr. Ord maintained the untenableness of the above position, if fairly considered, will admit of a construction, not only not untenable, but one which Mr. Ord's own observations will tend to confirm. His words are; "The cow-bird never deposits more than one egg in a nest, although it is probable it thus leaves several in different nests, especially when we consider the vast number of the species that are to be seen on their return southward?" If, by this, Audubon means to assert that the same cow-bunting never lays more than one egg in the same nest, and not that there is never more than one cow-bunting's egg in the same nest, (which last

meaning Mr. Ord does seem to attribute to his words, but which is by no means a fair inference) he is undoubtedly correct. "The simultaneous hatching of the eggs," (to use Mr. Ord's own words) in every instance where two cow-troopial's eggs have been found in the same nest, "proves that they had been deposited by different individuals."

Mr. Ord would not certainly have us suppose he considered the fact as unknown to Nuttall. For the latter writes, "I have sometimes remarked two of these eggs in the same nest, but in this case, one of them commonly proves abortive." "If one commonly proves abortive," remarks Mr. Ord, "both sometimes must hatch. Now as Mr. Nuttall does not inform us that he ever saw two cow-buntings in the same nest, we are compelled to infer that the circumstance of abortion is related at second hand." I wish not to pass a too hasty judgment, but I cannot but regard the inference involved in the last sentence, one of the most hastily deduced that ever fell from the pen of a naturalist. It is not only not justified by Mr. Nuttall's words, but appears to me directly contradictory to Mr. Ord's own deductions, in the line preceding. If Mr. Nuttall does not tell us, in as many words, that he ever saw two cow-buntings in the same nest, it certainly is much fairer to infer that fact from what he does say, than the contrary. For he tells us, that in several instances, he has seen two cow black-bird's eggs in the same nest; in most of which cases, one of them commonly proved abortive; and as they did not do so in every instance, Mr. Ord very justly infers that in some of them both must have hatched; and in the same breath, he jumps at once to the very opposite conclusion, that because Mr. Nuttall does not tell us that he saw the one, he is compelled to infer that he did not witness the other. Mr. Nuttall does not tell us, in so many words, that he ever saw the nest of the chipping sparrow. Are we thence to infer that he never did see one, but that his description of it is "related at second hand?" Where then will Mr. Ord find the position in question, which if he *could* find assumed, he would be amply justified in pronouncing it untenable? What naturalist ever assumed it? Not Wilson, for he only expresses his ignorance on the subject. Not Audubon, for, as far as we can see, he leaves the point untouched. And most certainly not Nuttall. We are compelled to think that he has but wasted his time in demolishing an imaginary position.

On the second point I can offer nothing from personal observation, either in support of, or in opposition to Mr. Ord's views. In the only instances that have fallen under my notice, the eggs of the cow-troopial *alone* were hatched. On this head, the writer of the above paper in Loudon modestly observes; "The opinion advanced by Wilson, and echoed by others, that the cow-bunting is invariably the first hatched, is mere conjecture, totally unsupported by facts. *It must now yield to truth;* although the sentimental reader will, doubtless, regret that the profound reflections on the 'wisdom of nature' will lose much of their efficacy or application." After such a preface, we are naturally led to expect that Mr. Ord would make good his point, by at least *one* instance, in which the cow-troopial can be proved to have been hatched after at least one of the other inmates of the nest. What are we to think then, when, although he relates many of his observations, to make good his point, from not one of them can we infer, with any degree of certainty, that the cow-troopial was not, in every instance,

hatched the first? I will not detain you with a detail of his observations; their amount is, that in several instances he found the parasite and the young of the owner of the nest hatched during the same night. But what right has he to assume, that the cow-troopial was not hatched twelve hours before the others? On one occasion, he found a nest of the indigo bird, containing one egg of the cow-troopial and three legitimate eggs: eleven days after he found the egg of the troopial hatched and two of the indigo bird's. The egg-shell of the former, and that of one of the latter, remained in the nest. The other had been removed. From this Mr. Ord infers that the last was the first hatched. This assumption is entirely gratuitous; and until it be admitted that birds uniformly remove their egg-shells within a certain time after the eggs have been hatched, (which indeed, Mr. Ord would seem to assume, but in proof of which he offers nothing) we must beg leave to wait for more satisfactory proof before we can declare untenable, a position assumed by Wilson, Audubon and Nuttall, sustained by their actual observations and proved in every instance to be the fact, when the case would admit of proof. All that has yet been proved, on the opposite side of the question, is, that the eggs of other birds have been hatched during the same night as the cow-troopial.

In pronouncing the third position untenable, Mr. Ord is undoubtedly, in part, correct. But that it holds good in most instances is still undeniable; and the few instances to the contrary that have been cited, must be regarded as but exceptions to a very general rule. Mr. Ord, however, has but echoed a fact, in the discovery of which he has been anticipated by Nuttall, who speaks of the red-eyed vireo "faithfully nursing the foundling along with her own brood."

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The last position which Mr. Ord combats is, that "the birds selected by the cow-bunting, are always smaller than herself." In support of his views on this subject he mentions, that he twice found the parasite in the nest of the wood thrush, which bird is larger than the troopial. The eggs were in these instances set upon and hatched by the owners of the respective nests. The credit of the discovery of this fact is undoubtedly due to Mr. Ord. The scientific world is indebted to him so far as this goes, but no farther. For the rule is not the less a general one, because exceptions to it have been found. For, while the cow-troopial's egg is frequently detected in the nests of no less than fifteen different species, all of which are smaller than that bird, it has been thus far discovered in the nest of but one solitary species which is of a larger size, and that in only two instances.

On this subject Audubon has fallen into a singular, and for him, unusual error. He says, "it is also a very remarkable circumstance, that although the cow-bird is larger than the species in the nest of which it deposits its eggs, the eggs themselves are not much superior in size to those of their intended foster-parents." "If this were the fact, it would justly be entitled to the epithet remarkable," says Mr. Ord. In his views on this point, Mr. Ord is undoubtedly correct, and Audubon singularly mistaken. We are willing to award to the former all the credit that is his due, for correcting this mistake. But if Mr. Ord had contented himself with simply pointing out the mistake, instead of descending and disgracing the pages of his paper by bestowing upon Audubon the contemptuous epithet of "sagacious naturalist;" instead of exulting at, and ridiculing the overthrow of the scheme of "adaptation of means to ends which the Author of Birds of

America deduces from this supposed fact,—instead of instituting an odious comparison between Nuttall and Audubon, by styling the former the more discerning naturalist, it would have been much more to his credit. Such things are alike unmanly and unbecoming the cause of science. We can overlook a *mistake* in one who has done so much to the cause of natural history. We cannot so readily excuse the correction of that error when apparently dictated by feelings of a personal character.

In this same paper we also find the following paragraph: "It appears to be the prevailing opinion, that if the cow-bird deposits her egg in a nest wherein the owner has not yet begun to lay, the nest is either deserted forthwith or the egg of the intruder is so buried by the addition of fresh materials, that it becomes abortive. On this head I am not prepared to speak further, than that the opinion wears the appearance of probability." His opinion appears to have been strengthened by the following circumstance. "On the 11th of June I found the nest of the red-eyed flycatcher containing a cow-bird's egg, and one of her own. As from the smallness of the nest, the cow-bird could not enter its cavity, she was compelled to sit over it; and her egg in dropping, broke the fly-catcher's. The nest was abandoned." This fact has very little bearing on the point in question, as it is one of the most common occurrences to find nests forsaken, in which one or more of the eggs have been broken. Mr. Ord is, however, mistaken in regarding it as the prevailing opinion that such is *invariably* the case. Audubon implies the possibility of there being instances to the contrary, and Mr. Nuttall plainly tells us, that such is the fact. Could not the author of the article in Loudon, draw any inference from the following, which we find in Audubon?

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"Should the cow-bird deposit its egg in a nest newly finished and as yet empty, the owners of the nest, *not unfrequently* desert it." Did he not read the following passage in Nuttall? "The only example *perhaps*, to the contrary, of deserting the nest when solely occupied by the stray egg, is in the blue-bird, who, attached strongly to breeding places, in which it often continues for several years, has been known to lay, though with apparent reluctance, after the deposition of the cow-bird's egg." From this we see, that the one leaves us to infer that the rule is not universal,—the other plainly tells us so. Be this, however, as it may, an interesting circumstance, that fell under my observation the present summer, places the question beyond controversy, so far as the universality of the rule is concerned. On the 10th of June, I found the nest of a red-eyed vireo nearly finished. It was situated on the extremity of a branch of an oak, at the height of about thirty feet. As in its situation then, it was quite inaccessible, I succeeded in fastening a cord to the end of the limb, and by bringing it nearer to the body of the tree and securing it in that situation, I brought it within reach, with a view of obtaining specimens of its eggs. Although the nest was by this means nearly inverted, the bird did not forsake it, but built up a new side where the nest had been brought down, and thus adapted it to its new situation. This process rendered the nest of a very peculiarly deep shape. About a fortnight after, on examining the nest, I found in it two eggs of the cow-troopial, considerably advanced in incubation, although there were none of the owners of the nest. On the 30th of the same month, one egg of the vireo was found to have been added. This had evidently been set upon but a few days; those of the cow-troopial appeared about to hatch. This fact is of the most satisfactory nature, for not only one, but actually two eggs of the cow black-bird were deposited, and instead of being forsaken, were set upon at least a week before the bird was ready to lay any of her own eggs. And though repeatedly disturbed, first by having her empty and unfinished nest nearly inverted, then by having the eggs of the cow-troopial removed and afterwards replaced, in order to put their identity beyond a doubt, and again by having her own egg removed, she still clung to her adopted offspring, with unexampled fidelity.

Again, we find the following paragraph, in which, by his unwarranted deductions, he is guilty of great injustice to Mr. Nuttall: "There is a passage in Mr. Nuttall's history of the blue-grey fly-catcher, which I cannot forbear quoting, as it involves one of the most preposterous ideas that ever entered into the brain of a naturalist. After describing the nest of the fly-catcher, our author adds, 'In this frail nest, the cow-troopial sometimes deposits her egg, and leaves her offspring to the care of these affectionate and pigmy nurses. In this case, as with the cuckoo in the nest of the yellow wren, and that of the red-tailed warbler, the egg is probably conveyed by the parent, and placed in this small and slender cradle, which could not be able to sustain the weight, or receive the body of the intruder.'" "It seems," observes Mr. Ord, "that some astute observers have lately discovered that the European cuckoo is in the habit of transporting her egg in her mouth, when the situation of the nest of her selected nurse (a hole in the wall for instance) should seem to hinder her ingress to it. Mr. Nuttall, seizing upon this idea, does not hesitate to conjecture that the same stratagem is practised by our cow-bunting in the case instanced by him." What right has he to assume that the mouth is the only means by which a bird can be supposed to convey its egg? Is it not far more probable that in this instance the egg is conveyed in the bird's claws? Improbable as this hypothesis may seem, it is much less so than any explanation, that has yet been found, for several facts connected with the history of this bird. Thus its egg is very frequently found in the nest of the golden-crowned thrush. Now the formation of this nest is such as utterly to preclude the possibility of the cow-troopial ever entering it for the purpose of depositing its egg. "It builds," says Wilson, "a snug, somewhat singular nest on the ground, in the woods, generally on a declivity facing the south. Though sunk below the surface, it is arched over, and only a small hole left for entrance." One of these nests, found in Cambridge by Mr. William T. Rotch, is, from measurement, but two inches in diameter. The entrance to the nest has been widened since it was found, but is not now more than one and a half inches wide. The cow-troopial is seven inches in length, eleven in alar extent, and about four through the body. Does it seem more improbable that the egg is conveyed by the bird, than that a body seven inches long and four thick can introduce itself through a passage one and a half inches wide into a space not more than two inches in diameter? Mr. Ord might at least have found some other explanation, before he pronounced the only one that has yet been offered, for these singular facts, "the most preposterous idea that ever entered the brain of a naturalist."

Mr. Ord, in speaking of the opinion advanced by Audubon that birds have the means of distinguishing an addled egg, says; "I have reason to believe that birds possess no such knowledge; and I am confident that

when an addle egg is removed, it is not by the owner of the nest, but by some vagrant bird in search of food." A few pages after, we find the following sentence, which in a manner involves a contradiction to the above: "It is admitted that the cow-bunting never drops her egg into the nest of a bird that has commenced incubation." Now if Audubon is wrong, as Mr. Ord says he is, in the first position, may not Mr. Ord's latter position be unfounded? If Mr. Ord is not incorrect in the latter, why is Audubon necessarily in error? For we see not on what grounds we cannot allow to birds the power of distinguishing addled eggs, and yet allow the cow-troopial the power of ascertaining whether the eggs in the nest in which it proposes to deposit its own, have been set upon or not.

Mr. Ord concludes his article by several positions which he assumes. As the first four are but the reverse of assumptions which he pronounced untenable and which have been already considered, I will not detain you by a repetition of them. The remainder are,

1st. "When two eggs of the cow-bunting are hatched in the nest of a bird smaller than herself, the young of the foster-bird, for the want of room, are either smothered in the nest, or jostled out of it."

2nd. "When only one egg of the cow-bunting is hatched in the nest of a bird smaller than herself, the young cow-bird, and the young of the owner of the nest, are nourished and reared with equal affection, and dwell in harmony together."

3rd. "When the cow-bunting drops her egg in the nest of a bird larger than herself, the selected nurse does not eject the egg, but hatches the stranger, and nourishes it as her own."

4th. "The cow-bunting will drop her egg into a nest which contains more than one egg."

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His first position is undoubtedly sound; as in every instance, where two cow-buntings have been known to have been hatched in the same nest, it has uniformly resulted in the death of the smaller birds.

The second position cannot be so readily admitted. That it does frequently occur is undisputed, but that the reverse is much more frequently the case is equally undeniable. The very fact that the circumstance was unknown to men of such observation as Wilson, Audubon and Nuttall, should make us hesitate, before, from a few occasional instances, we set it down at once, as a general rule.

The third rule Mr. Ord founds upon the circumstance before alluded to, of his twice finding the egg of a troopial in the nest of the wood-thrush. Upon these slight grounds he does not hesitate to set it down as a general rule, that larger birds invariably hatch these eggs when entrusted to their care. If new rules are to be admitted as well-founded, and old ones to be dismissed as unfounded, upon such slight grounds and groundless inferences as Mr. Ord would have them, the laws of nature, unchanging and immutable as they in reality are, will be made to appear as uncertain as the sands of the sea-shore. If he had merely assumed that this fact held true with the wood-thrush, nothing could have been said; but what right has he to assume that the same is the case with every other bird, larger than the cow black-bird? it is well known that the cat-bird invariably removes the eggs of strange birds not merely of different, but even of the same species, and the robin as invariably forsakes her nest if thus intruded upon. And until Mr. Ord can adduce satisfactory proof that the troopial is hatched and nursed in the nest of the meadow lark, the Baltimore oriole, the red-winged black-bird, the king-bird, the ferruginous thrush, the cat-bird, the robin, the hermit thrush, the ground robin, the cardinal grosbeak, the cuckoo, the woodpecker, &c., (I ask not all—a few species will suffice), he cannot but be thought to have hastily adopted an unfounded and untenable position.

His last position, that the cow-bunting will drop her egg in a nest which contains more than one egg, is a fact of too common occurrence to need confirmation. One would think it a fact too well known to the veriest tyro in ornithology to require being mentioned at all; least of all, of being brought forward as a new discovery.

There is one circumstance, connected with the history of this bird, which does not appear to be generally known. It has been mentioned that when a cow black-bird's egg is deposited in a nest newly finished, and before the owner has begun to lay, the bird will frequently enclose the egg in fresh materials so as to prevent it from ever hatching. It does not appear to be known that the bird will sometimes, in order to get rid of the intruder, bury with the cow-troopial's, her own eggs. That such is sometimes the case, the following will show. In the summer of 1835, I found in the botanical garden in Cambridge, a nest of the summer yellow-bird, which a brood had evidently but just left. Its peculiarly elongated shape, attracted my notice. Upon examining it, I found that the bird had apparently first constructed a nest of the usual shape, and had deposited in it three of her own eggs. At this period, a cow black-bird had added another. Not wishing, as it would seem, to waste her time by rearing a stranger, to the probable destruction of her own offspring, and yet unwilling to be at the trouble of constructing a nest entirely anew, she merely built an additional story to it: thus effectually destroying the egg of the intruder,

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but with it, her own. In this upper story she had evidently succeeded in raising her second brood in safety. In the centre of this nest, I found these four eggs thus singularly incarcerated.

There is also another circumstance to which I would direct your attention. There are found two kinds of parasite eggs so different in marking, as to warrant us in considering them the product of different species, did we know any other than the cow-troopial to which to attribute one of them. One of these eggs is "thickly sprinkled over with grains of pale brown on a dirty white ground." Its thickness is nearly the same throughout. This is the egg of the cow black-bird. The other egg is considerably larger in size, one end is evidently much more pointed than the other, its ground is pure white and the spots are much more sparing and are of a much deeper tint of brown, nearly approaching to black. To what bird does this egg belong? If to the cow-troopial, in what manner shall we explain this unusual difference? If not, to what bird shall we attribute it? Nuttall, in his account of the ambiguous sparrow, which he supposes a new species, asks, "may not this be the offspring of the white and more sparingly spotted egg, deposited occasionally in the nests of the cow-bird's nurses?" If so, why is not this rare bird proportionally common with its egg?

One word, before concluding, on our cuckoos. To show how little these birds deserve the obloquy with which they are too often inconsiderately regarded, I will relate a trivial, but not uninteresting circumstance, which fell under my own observation. A nest of the black-billed cuckoo, containing three young, was found in Cambridge in the summer of 1835, and the female, brutally shot in the nest by a boy. The young, so far from perishing from hunger, were carefully and affectionately nursed by the surviving male. Such things are of common occurrence among birds in general, but it is what would hardly have been expected from the hated and much injured cuckoo.

Among the foster parents of the cow-troopial, Wilson enumerates the blue-bird, the chipping-sparrow, the golden-crowned thrush, the red-eyed fly-catcher, the goldfinch, the Maryland yellow-throat, the white-eyed fly-catcher, and the blue-grey flycatcher. To these Audubon adds the summer yellow-bird. Nuttall adds the indigo-bird, the song-sparrow, and Wilson's thrush. Ord mentions the wood-thrush. To these may be added the small pewee in the Society's collection, the purple-finch in that of Mr. S. Cabot Jr., and the bay-winged finch in my own.

I must crave the indulgence of the Society for trespassing upon so much of their time. The importance of having every new fact that is advanced in science duly considered, must be my excuse. If I have hesitated from insufficient grounds, to dismiss old positions and adopt the new ones of Mr. Ord, I trust I have given the facts he brings forward, all the weight they deserve. If I have felt called upon to notice and animadvert upon a spirit of hostility towards co-laborers in the cause of science, which but too clearly shows itself in his paper, I trust I have done no more than every friend of fair and honest criticism will be willing to do in similar cases, no matter who be the offender.

Since making the above communication, I have been able to investigate with a little more fulness, the sub-

ject of the removal of eggs by birds, from one place to another; and the result of my inquiries has satisfied me, that the thing is not only not impossible, but that it is practised much more frequently, by several species of birds, than is generally imagined. I have been recently informed by the author of "Birds of America," that he has himself seen the chuck-will's-widow remove her eggs to another place on perceiving that they had been handled. With regard to the cow-troopial, in the case of the golden-crowned thrush, this same accurate observer of nature informs me that the cow black-bird is in the custom of rolling her egg along on the ground, and of thrusting it into the opening of the nest of the thrush with her head. This, however, could not have been practised in the nest of which I have already spoken in the possession of Mr. Rotch, and in which an egg of the cow black-bird was actually found, a fact of which I was not aware when I gave a description of this nest. It was impossible that this method could have been put in practice in this case, as the nest was not built as it generally is, upon the ground, but on a bush slightly elevated above the ground. In all other respects it was exactly similar, the entrance being on the side and not on the top. It must therefore have been thrust into the nest by means either of the bill or of the claws of the bird. From the inconvenient shape of the former, it would seem most probable that the latter was the means employed. I am inclined to think that the removal, not only of the eggs, but even of the nests, is also not of unfrequent occurrence. It has been related, with every appearance of truth, to have been witnessed in France, in the European nightingale. I am nearly certain that I have met with another instance in our common house-wren. The only reason I have for hesi-
p. 435 tation is, that I was unable to find the nest after its removal. In the case of the nightingale, the observer was more successful. It is to be hoped that this subject will not be deemed unworthy the attention of our field naturalists. A careful investigation cannot fail to lead to the discovery of many interesting facts. And if the result of these investigations shall be to overthrow and refute any of the opinions of those who have gone before us, let such refutations be made in the spirit of friendliness and true love of science.

Xanthocephalus
Xanthocephalus

Xanthocephalus icterocephalus in Lower Canada. — While on the Lower St. Lawrence, in July last, Mr. N. A. Comeau handed me for identification the skin of a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*) that he shot, early in September ("about Sept. 4"), 1878, in his dooryard, at Gedbout River, Province of Quebec, Canada — six miles west of the entrance to the Gulf. — C. Hart Merriam, M. D., *Locust Grove, New York.*

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 246.

Birds within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Can, Comeau & Merriam

42. **Xanthocephalus icterocephalus.** Yellow-headed Blackbird. —An accidental straggler from the west. Mr. Comeau shot a male of this species in his door yard, at Godbout, early in September, 1878.*

Bull. N. O. C, 7, Oct, 1882, p. 236

Records from Toronto. E. E. T. Seton.

Yellow-headed Blackbird. **Xanthocephalus icterocephalus.**—This species has been taken a number of times, in company with the Red-winged Blackbird, by Mr. Wm. Loane, who describes it as the Californian Blackbird. The specimen I examined was taken by that gentleman; it is now in the possession of Mr. Jacobs of Centre Street, Toronto.

Auk, 2, Oct., 1885, p. 334

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 78.

182. **Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.** Yellow-headed Blackbird.— Accidental; one record, a male taken about 1885; this bird is now in my collection.[1]

[1] Auk, II, 1885, 334.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus and Spiza americana in Maine. — A female *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* was collected by Mr. Fred. Rackliff, on Metinic Island, Knox Co., Maine, Aug. 17, 1882. The bird was discovered quite early in the forenoon in a piece of oats on the northeast part of the island, where it remained until a little after noon, when it was shot. The island lies about four miles southeast of the mainland of the town of St. George. The capture was effected directly after a 'fog mull' and light rain, but no heavy wind was experienced here. The bird was flushed several times before it was shot, but showed no disposition to leave the place. Mr. Rackliff mounted it for his collection. I believe this is the first instance of the bird's capture in Maine. Arthur H Norton, Westbrook maine

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Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) **in Maine.**— Early in November, 1886, there was sent me for identification by Mr. Fred. Rackliff, of Spruce Head, Maine, a young female of this species, which Mr. Rackliff stated was shot by him on Metnic Isle, August 9, 1883. —Robert Ridgway, *Washington, D. C.*

Auk, 4, July 1887. p. [illegible]

General Notes.

Corrections. — **Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus and Spiza americana in Maine.** — In a note in 'The Auk,' Vol. X, July, 1893, p. 302, I mentioned these birds in terms that require further notice. The specimen of *X. xanthocephalus* brought under consideration was first noted by Mr. Ridgway in 1887 (*cf.* Auk, Vol. IV, July 1887, p. 256). But in the dates given in the two notices there is a discrepancy of nearly a year. As I saw the bird before and at the time it was shot, and kept record of the fact in my diary, I feel authorized to furnish the correct date, which is, as I have previously stated, Aug. 17, 1882. That both notes refer to the same specimen I am thoroughly satisfied, having lately seen Mr. Rackliff and learned that this is the same bird which he sent to Mr. Ridgway, and that he has never shot any other specimen in Maine nor elsewhere. It is evident that the source of erroneous date is not with Mr. Ridgway.

Auk XI. Jan. 1894 p. 78-79

Acanthis linaria rostrata and *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* in Connecticut. –

"xxxx Another female of this species [*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*] was taken on Monomoy Island, Mass., September 8, 1897, by Mr. W. B. Revere, and given to me while in the flesh. –

Louis B. Bishop, M.D., New Haven, Conn.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 195.

[*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*
Maynard, Nat. Guide, 1870, 122, 123 – Watertown, Mass.]

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOÖLOGY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS

Mar. 18, 1903.

Dear Mr. Deane

I am sorry to say that a long search has failed to bring to light the missing wings, tail and one foot of the Yellow-head

Yours truly

B. J. Parker

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ipswich, Mass.— At Ipswich, Mass., September 17, 1917, I had under observation for about half an hour, a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). It was in the plumage of the female.— Francis Beach White, *Concord, N. H.*

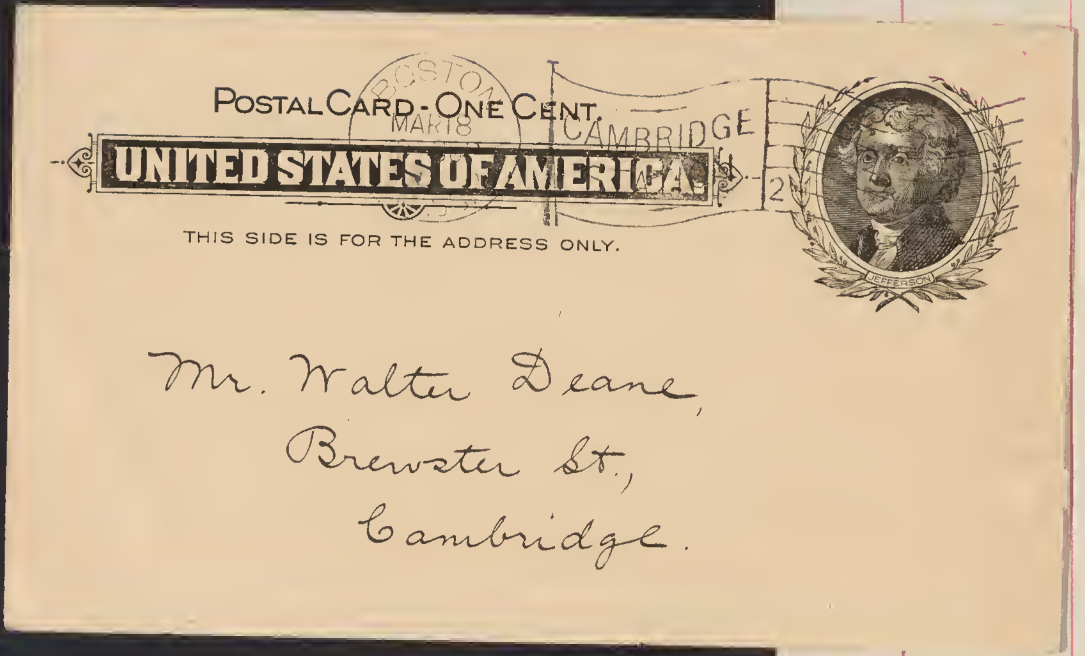
Auk, Vol. XXXV, 1918, p. 224.

Acanthis linaria rostrata and *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* in Connecticut.—

"xxxx Another female of this species [*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*] was taken on *Monomoy Island, Mass.*, September 8, 1897, by Mr. W. B. Revere, and given to me while in the flesh.—

Louis B. Bishop, M. D., New Haven, Conn.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 195.


BOSTON MAR 18 CAMBRIDGE 2

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JEFFERSON

Mr. Walter Deane,
Brewster St.,
Cambridge.

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ipswich, Mass.—At Ipswich, Mass., September 17, 1917, I had under observation for about half an hour, a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). It was in the plumage of the female.—FRANCIS BEACH WHITE, *Concord, N. H.*

Auk, Vol. XXXV. 1918, p. 224.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus in Connecticut.—A bird which appears to be unquestionably of this species was shot out of a flock of *Agelaius phœniceus*, on the open meadow opposite Hartford, late in July, 1884. From the plumage, I consider it to be a female. This makes, I believe, the third recorded occurrence of this species in New England.—William E. Treat, *East Hartford, Conn.* Auk, 4, July 1887. p.2

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Connecticut.

E. K. COLBRON.

Last July I shot a female Yellow-headed Blackbird from a flock of Red-winged Blackbirds in the marshes near Stamford, Conn., which I believe to be an unusual occurrence.

O.&O. XIII, Dec. 1888 p.189

Acanthis linaria rostrata and Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus in Connecticut.

x given to Dr. Bishop some time ago by Dr. W. H. Hotchkiss of New Haven.

In the same collection x was an unlabelled skin of a female Yellow-headed Blackbird, which Dr. Hotchkiss told me he was certain was shot near New Haven in June, 1878. In this connection it may be well to report that another female of this species was taken on Monomoy Island, Mass., September 8, 1897, by Mr. W. B. Revere, and given to me while in the flesh.—Louis B. Bishop, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

Auk, XVIII, April., 1901, p.195.

Abnormal Plumage of Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus.—I shot, October 21, 1887, in the valley of Mud Creek, thirty miles southeast of Las Animas, Bent Co., Colorado, a female *X. xanthocephalus*. It could fly well but was quite young. The barrels of most of the quills of wings and tail were dark and full of liquid. The plumage was more loose and ragged than is usual in birds that can fly. It differs from all young females I have seen as follows:—

Lesser wing-coverts whitish; scattering white and whitish feathers in hind neck, interscapulars, back, upper tail-coverts, breast, belly, crissum and flank. Feathers of the breast long and rounded — looking like cotton strings. One secondary in right wing whitish on both webs for one inch; middle tail-feathers the same for half their length. Right outer tail-feather pure white. One downy, round feather one and a half inches long, starting from below oil gland. It was with two other young birds. The date is much later than I have ever seen these birds in Colorado.—P. M. Thorne, Capt. 22d Infty., *Fort Lyon, Colorado.* Auk, V. Jan. 1888. p. 112.

Xanthocephalus icterocephalus

Young first plumage in coll Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist. (skin in tin can).

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

X. icterocephalus, has been taken in albinistic plumage.

Bull. N.O.C. 1, April, 1876, p. 22

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*). Abundant summer resident. Nesting in large colonies in large marshes, often in company with the Red-winged Blackbird, but usually by itself. In a day's collecting in a large marsh covering fully fifty acres, I did not see a single Red-wing, while the Yellow-heads were nesting by the hundreds.

The nest is a light, but large and substantial structure, placed in a clump of grass or reeds, and supported by the stems passing through its sides; about six inches in diameter, the same in hight, and from six to twenty-four above the water. It is composed of dried grasses and sedges interwoven and lined with finer pieces; often the rim is finished with the tassels of the reeds giving it a very beautiful appearance.

The eggs number four, rarely five, and in over three hundred sets examined I have only found four of five. Pale greenish-white covered with spots and blotches of purplish and light brown, often so much so as to completely conceal the ground color at the larger end. Usually there are one or two small irregular streaks of dark brown on the larger end. The eggs, however, very greatly both in color and markings.

Icteridae found nesting near Des Moines, Iowa. James B. Green

O.&O. XII. Jun. 1887 p. 91-92.

Anomalous Nidification

O.&O. IX. Nov. 1884. p. 135

May 26th, a remarkable nest of the Yellow-headed Blackbird, (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*), is to be noted, in which the usual basket-like structure of rush leaves was protected from the vicissitudes of the weather by the building of another affair, resembling the foundation of one of their nests, directly over it. In the lower, or true nest, access to which was obtained by a neat entrance on one side, were four eggs. Dr. Patton, Minneapolis, Minn.

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334. *Yellow-headed Blackbird.* By Geo. L. Tappan. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 67. —Description of a "peculiar specimen."

O. and O.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD, (*Xanthocephalus icterocephalus*).—An abundant bird in some portions of the Territory, inhabiting marshes and wet prairies. At Fort Laramie I found a breeding place and secured fifteen nest complements of eggs and a few nests. The nests were built in the tall rushes of a slough and formed of rush leaves of the year before, very nicely woven together and lined with the same material in fine pieces. They were firmly attached to three or four rushes and built very close to the water among a colony of Red-wings, (*Agelæus phœniceus*). The male is a very handsome bird. Black; head (excepting lores) neck and the upper part of breast yellow, large white patch on wings, length 11 inches, wing 5½, tail 4½, female brownish-black, no white on wing, considerably smaller than the male; length 9 inches or a little more. Have never seen the young, but they are said to be "much like the female," (*Coues*). The male sometimes has slight touches of yellow on belly and legs. It is the handsomest of all black-birds, and almost entirely a western bird. It has been quoted from Greenland; *Reinhart.*—*Chas. T. Morrison, Fort McKinney, Wyo. Ter.*

O.&O. IX. Dec. 1884. p. 150.

"Irregulars" in birds egg for 1883.
set of three Yellow-headed Blackbirds, one marbled, with no spots. P.B. Peabody, Faribault, Minn.

O.&O. VIII. Dec. 1883. p. 96